GOLD COAST.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO

AFFAIRS IN ASHANTI.

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(*In continuation of* [C.—7917] *February* 1896.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1896.

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1896.

[C.—7918.] *Price* 1*s.* 4*d.*

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
		1895.		
13	Sir W. B. Griffith	(Rec. Feb. 12.) Telegraphic.	Gives text of a letter received from the messengers from Ashanti, expressing their intention of disregarding his orders, and of proceeding to England.	23
14	Manchester Chamber of Commerce.	February 15	Draws attention to a memorial from the Cape Coast Chamber of Commerce, relative to the state of trade on the Gold Coast as affected by the want of order in the interior, and requests that the Governor may be instructed to take steps for the removal of the difficulties complained of.	23
15	To Mr. Brew	February 15	In reply to letter of 9th February, refers to the answer returned to a question in the House of Commons on 14th February, respecting the Ashanti messengers, and expresses the inability of Secretary of State to grant him an interview.	24
16	To Sir W. B. Griffith	February 15 Telegraphic.	Instructs him to inform the special messengers that Her Majesty's Government do not recognise them as ambassadors, and that if they come to England they will not be received or recognised in any way.	24
17	To Manchester Chamber of Commerce.	February 18	Observes that the matters forming the subject of their letter of 15th February are engaging the attention of Her Majesty's Government.	24
18	Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.	February 20	Encloses copy of letter addressed to the Foreign Office on the subject of the injury done to trade at the Gold Coast by the disturbed state of the interior countries, and urging the establishment of a British Commissioner at Kumasi.	25
19	Sir W. B. Griffith	January 21 (Rec. Feb. 22.)	Transmits notes of his interview with the messengers from Ashanti on 15th December 1894.	26
20	Ditto	January 25 (Rec. Feb. 22.)	Transmits copies of letters from Captain Stewart and Mr. Vroom respecting the dilatory tactics of the Kumasi authorities.	33
21	To Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.	February 23	States that the matters forming the subject of their letter of 20th February are engaging the attention of Her Majesty's Government.	35
22	Sir W. B. Griffith	February 6 (Rec. Mar. 12.)	Encloses the report of Captain Stewart and Mr. Vroom on their mission to Kumasi, with his observations thereon.	36
23	Ditto	February 7 (Rec. Mar. 12.)	Forwards copy of a letter from the Ashanti messengers, notifying that they have been instructed to proceed to England to see the Queen.	40
24	The Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.	March 14	Enquires what measures have been adopted for preventing disturbances to trade by Ashantis.	41
25	To Governor Maxwell	March 15 Extract.	Conveys the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the policy to be followed with regard to the King of Kumasi.	41

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Serial No.	From or to whom.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
		1895.		
26	Sir W. B. Griffith - -	February 13 (Rec. Mar. 16.)	Encloses copy of a letter to the Ashanti messengers, informing them that they will not be received in England, and of their reply thereto.	43
27	Ditto - - -	February 15 (Rec. Mar. 16.)	Forwards a further letter from Captain Stewart and Mr. Vroom, relative to the insolent manner in which they were treated by the King and Chiefs of Ashanti.	44
28	Ditto - - -	February 16 (Rec. Mar. 16.)	Forwards further correspondence with the messengers from Ashanti, relative to their desire to be recognised as ambassadors.	45
29	Ditto - - -	February 18 (Rec. Mar. 16.)	Forwards a further letter from the Ashanti messengers pressing their claim to be treated as ambassadors.	46
30	To Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.	March 22	Expresses regret that the efforts made during the past year to effect an arrangement with Ashanti have not yet had a satisfactory result, but states that special instructions have been issued on the subject to the new Governor.	47
31	Sir W. B. Griffith - -	February 19 (Rec. Mar. 25.)	Calls attention to the continuance of human sacrifices in Kumasi, and encloses newspaper extracts and reports by Captain Houston on the subject.	47
32	Sir W. B. Griffith -	February 28 (Rec. Mar. 29.)	Forwards a report by the medical officer attached to the recent mission to Kumasi.	53
33	Governor Maxwell -	(Rec. April 10.) Telegraphic.	Reports the departure, on April 3, of six special messengers from Kumasi.	54
34	Mr. Brew - - -	May 6	Reports the arrival of the Ashanti "Embassy," and requests an interview for them.	54
35	To Mr. Brew - -	May 9	States that the messengers from Ashanti are not recognised as ambassadors and cannot be received by Her Majesty's Government; encloses copy of Mr. Buxton's statement in the House of Commons, and refers them to the Governor of the Gold Coast, who has full instructions.	54
36	To Foreign Office - -	May 9	Transmits copy of Mr. Brew's letter of May 6th, and of Colonial Office reply thereto, and presumes that a similar reply will be returned to the letter which it is understood has been addressed to Foreign Office.	55
37	Governor Maxwell -	April 8 (Rec. May 10.)	Acknowledges receipt of Despatch of March 15th, and states that he will report fully as instructed therein as soon as possible.	56
38	Ditto - - -	April 11 (Rec. May 10.)	Forwards a further communication from the Ashanti messengers who left for England on April 3rd.	56
39	Manchester Chamber of Commerce.	May 11	Transmits copy of the Memorial of the Cape Coast Chamber of Commerce, referred to in their letter of February 15th, and inquires whether any reply can be made to the representations contained therein.	57

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
		1895.		
40	Foreign Office - -	May 15	Concurs in the reply returned to the "Ashanti Ambassadors," to which they will be referred.	58
41	To Manchester Chamber of Commerce.	May 20	Expresses regret that the negotiations with Ashanti have not yet had a satisfactory result, but observes that the new Governor of the Gold Coast has special instructions on the subject of Ashanti affairs.	58
42	Mr. Brew - - -	May 22	Transmits copy of letter addressed to the Foreign Office on the subject of the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to receive the members of the Ashanti "Embassy," and requesting a reconsideration of the matter.	58
43	To Sir W. B. Griffith -	May 28	Transmits Mr. Brew's letter of May 22, and requests him to report upon the statements contained therein.	81
44	Sir W. B. Griffith -	July 1	Submits observations on No. 42 - -	81
45	Governor Maxwell -	June 13 (Rec. July 8.) Extract.	Reports upon the course of action which he recommends should be adopted in regard to Ashanti.	83
46	Foreign Office - -	July 10	Transmits copy of a letter from Mr. Brew explaining the reason of the "Embassy" for communicating through the Foreign Office.	86
47	To Mr. Brew - -	July 18	Informs him, in reply to his letter to Foreign Office of 3rd July, that the Secretary of State has nothing to add to the Colonial Office letter of 9th May.	87
48	Governor Maxwell -	July 2 (Rec. Aug. 1.)	Transmits, with observations thereon, a petition from the Cape Coast Chamber of Commerce, advocating the declaration of a Protectorate over Ashanti, and the appointment of a Commissioner to reside in the Sefwi country, together with notes of a meeting held on December 4, 1894, when the petition was presented.	88
49	London Chamber of Commerce.	August 3	Again urges the establishment of a proper system of administration in Ashanti.	90
50	Foreign Office - -	August 13	Forwards a letter from the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce enclosing a resolution urging the declaration of a British Protectorate over Ashanti.	91
51	Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.	August 14	Forwards a memorial urging the establishment of an effective British administration over Ashanti and other tribes on the northern frontier of the Gold Coast Colony.	91
52	H. C. Richards, Esq., M.P.	August 16	Transmits a letter and other papers received from Mr. J. O. Ansah and records an interview with him and his companions.	92
53	To H. C. Richards, Esq., M.P.	August 20	Returns the enclosures in No. 52, and expresses inability to receive or recognise as ambassadors the messengers from Ashanti.	93

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
		1895.		
54	To the Manchester Chamber of Commerce.	August 22	With reference to the memorial from the Cape Coast Chamber of Commerce, states that the question of the policy to be adopted with respect to Ashanti is still under consideration.	93
55	To Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.	August 22	States that the question of the policy to be adopted with regard to Ashanti is under consideration.	93
56	To London Chamber of Commerce.	August 22	States that the questions forming the subject of their letter of August 3 are under consideration.	94
57	Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.	August 26	Asks for an expression of Mr. Chamberlain's views on the Resolution of the Chamber, forwarded in No. 50.	94
58	Governor Maxwell -	August 3 (Rec. Aug. 30.) Extract.	Furnishes information as to the antecedents of Mr. J. H. Brew.	94
59	Ditto - - -	August 5 (Rec. Aug. 30.)	Reports the death of Kwabina Asante, King of Attabubu, and the election of Kofi Amuaku, and encloses a copy of a letter from the new King and Chiefs, together with a report of an interview with the bearers of the message.	95
60	To Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.	August 30	States that the Resolution enclosed in No. 50 will have the best attention of Mr. Chamberlain.	97
61	J. Ossoo Ansah, Esq. -	September 5	Transmits copy of a lithographed circular, explaining the object of his "mission," and enquires whether the Governor of the Gold Coast is preparing to send an expedition to Kumasi.	97
62	To Governor Maxwell -	September 6 Telegraphic. Extract.	Conveys the terms of a message to be sent to the King of Kumasi, requiring him to accept a British Resident, and instructions as to the measures to be taken in the event of the King not accepting the conditions; asks whether West India troops will suffice instead of white or Indian.	99
63	To J. Ossoo Ansah, Esq.	September 9	Corrects certain misstatements in the circular enclosed in No. 61, and suggests that he should return to the West Coast at once if he desires to take part in any negotiations respecting Ashanti.	99
64	To Governor Maxwell -	September 11 Telegraphic.	Instructs him to inform the King of Kumasi that his messengers have been invited to return at once if they desire to be of use to him in the forthcoming negotiations.	100
65	To War Office - -	September 13	Transmits, in view of a possible necessity for an expedition, copies of Nos. 25, 45, and 62, showing the relation between the Colonial Government and the King of Kumasi.	100
66	Governor Maxwell - -	(Rec. Sept. 16.) Telegraphic. Extract.	Reports that he is sending Captain Stewart and Mr. Vroom with the ultimatum, and has fixed 31st October as the date by which a reply must be sent.	101

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
		1895.		
67	Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.	September 25	Urges that the steps which have been long under consideration may be taken to bring Ashanti more completely under British control.	101
68	To Governor Maxwell -	September 26 Telegraphic.	Informs him that he may send a strong detachment of Houssas at once to Prahsu with guns to form a camp as a demonstration if he considers it desirable in view of his negotiations with the King of Kumasi.	101
69	Ditto - - -	(Rec. Sept. 26.) Telegraphic.	Instructs him to send home at once Sir Francis Scott to confer with War Office.	101
70	Governor Maxwell -	(Rec. Sept. 27.) Telegraphic.	Reports that he has returned to headquarters and that Sir Francis Scott left for home on 27th September.	102
71	Ditto - - -	September 5 (Rec. Sept. 28.)	Transmits copy of a report by the Rev. E. Perregaux, of the Basel Mission on the state of affairs in Ashanti.	102
72	Ditto - - -	(Rec. Sept. 28.) Telegraphic.	Reports that he will adopt the suggestion to form a camp at Prahsu.	103
73	To War Office - -	October 4	Encloses copy of Colonial Office telegram of 26th September, and states that the Governor has reported his intention of adopting the suggestion.	103
74	The Manchester Chamber of Commerce.	October 5	Expresses the hope that it may be decided to place a British Resident at Coomassie.	103
75	The Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.	October 8	Urges the importance of stipulating in any treaty with Ashanti for freedom of trade.	103
76	Governor Maxwell -	September 26 (Rec. Oct. 17.)	Forwards copy of a letter from Messrs. Grimwade, Ridley & Co., of Ipswich, to Mr. Vroom, relative to certain commercial proposals made by one of the Ashanti "princes," and suggests that it might be desirable to issue a warning to British manufacturers as to the status of the Messrs. Ansah.	104
77	Ditto - - -	September 26 (Rec. Oct. 17.)	Transmits copy of the ultimatum despatched to the King of Kumasi, and of the instructions given to Captain Stewart and Mr. Vroom, the bearers of it.	104
78	Ditto - - -	(Rec. Oct. 21.) Telegraphic. Extract.	Reports the return of Captain Stewart and party to Prahsu.	107
79	Messrs. Grundy, Kershaw, Saxon, Samson & Co.	October 23	Requests an interview for a client who has obtained a concession from the "Ministers and Chief of Ashanti."	107
80	To Messrs. Grundy, Kershaw, Saxon, Samson & Co.	October 26	Requests a copy of the concession referred to in their letter of October 23.	107
81	J. E. Harris, Esq. -	October 26	Urges that the mission to Kumasi should be postponed for the reasons given.	108
82	Messrs. Grundy, Kershaw, Saxon, Samson & Co.	October 30	Forwards copy of the concession from the Ashanti "Princes" to Mr. Reckless.	108
83	Governor Maxwell	(Rec. Nov. 1.) Telegraphic.	Reports that no reply has yet been received to the ultimatum.	110

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
		1895.		
84	Governor Maxwell -	October 14 (Rec. Nov. 4.)	Reports arrangements made to secure the safety of King Senkere of Mampong.	110
85	Ditto - - -	(Rec. Nov. 5.) Telegraphic. Extract.	Reports that the King has not yet answered but that he (the Governor) cannot recommend Her Majesty's Government to defer action.	112
86	Ditto - - -	(Rec. Nov. 7.) Telegraphic.	Requests authority to despatch an officer under escort to Nkoranza to conclude a treaty of protection.	112
87	To Governor Maxwell -	November 8 Extract.	Approves the terms of the ultimatum sent to the King of Kumasi and the instructions given to Captain Stewart and Mr. Vroom.	112
88	Governor Maxwell -	(Rec. Nov. 9.) Telegraphic.	Reports that two special messengers from Kumasi for Accra passed Prahsu on October 6.	112
89	To Governor Maxwell -	November 9 Telegraphic.	Authorizes him to send an officer to Nkoranza.	112
90	To War Office - -	November 9	States that it has been decided to despatch an expedition to Kumasi, and requests that arrangements may be made accordingly.	113
91	To Governor Maxwell -	November 11	Referring to his telegram of November 9, instructs him to forward any further information; preparations are being made for the expedition.	113
92	Col. Sir F. C. Scott -	November 11	Requests that instructions may be issued to the Governor to make the arrangements indicated, in view of the despatch of an expedition to Kumassi.	114
93	To Admiralty - -	November 11	Requests that instructions may be issued to assemble as large a naval force as may be possible at the Gold Coast during the operations against Ashanti for use in case of emergency.	115
94	To J. E. Harris, Esq. -	November 11	Comments upon the statements made in his letter of 26th October, and informs him that Her Majesty's Government cannot recognise the concession granted by the Ashanti "Princes."	115
95	To Messrs. Grundy, Kershaw, & Co.	November 11	States that Her Majesty's Government decline to recognise in any way the concession enclosed in their letter of October 30.	116
96	To Governor Maxwell -	November 12	Approves the action reported in his confidential despatch of October 14.	116
97	Governor Maxwell -	(Rec. Nov. 12.) Telegraphic.	Reports the receipt of a message, in reply to the ultimatum, from the King of Kumasi, who states that he has sent his proposals to the Queen by messengers.	116
98	To Governor Maxwell -	November 12	Transmits copies of correspondence respecting the arrangements which are being made with regard to the expedition.	116
99	War Office - -	November 13	Reports that the local rank of Colonel will be conferred on Sir F. C. Scott, whilst commanding the expedition to Ashanti.	117

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
		1895.		
100	War Office - -	November 13	With reference to Colonial Office letter of November 9, reports that the necessary measures are being taken.	117
101	To Thomas Sutherst, Esq.	November 14	Lays down the line of action which should be taken by the King of Kumasi and his messengers now in this country, if it is desired to prove that his offer of submission and his desire for peace are genuine.	117
102	Thomas Sutherst, Esq. -	November 15	States the extent to which the envoys are prepared to accept Mr. Chamberlain's terms.	118
103	To Thomas Sutherst, Esq.	November 15	States that Mr. Chamberlain must decline, for the reasons given, to recognise the messengers as ambassadors, and that he has nothing to add to Colonial Office letter of 14th November.	120
104	To War Office - -	November 15	Transmits copy of the Governor's telegram of November 12, and expresses the opinion that the expedition must proceed.	120
105	To Governor Maxwell -	November 15 Telegraphic.	Instructs him to ascertain whether Samory is at Kumasi, and, in any case, to inform him of the proposed expedition, and warn him that he should not interfere.	121
106	Governor Maxwell -	(Rec. Nov. 16) Telegraphic.	Reports that, at present, he does not believe that Samory is at Kumasi, but he is making inquiry.	121
107	Thomas Sutherst, Esq. -	November 16	Gives particulars as to the status of the Ashanti envoys, and intimates their entire acceptance of the Secretary of State's terms.	121
108	Admiralty - -	November 16	States that Rear-Admiral Rawson will concentrate on the Gold Coast with the flag ship and five or six other vessels during operations.	123
109	Governor Maxwell -	(Rec. Nov. 18) Telegraphic.	In reply to telegram of November 15, states that he considers the reports as to Samory's movements are founded on Accra newspaper articles which are unworthy of belief, but that he will send another messenger.	123
110	Ditto - - -	October 25 (Rec. Nov. 18)	Transmits copy of a semi-official letter from Capt. Stewart reporting on the progress of the mission to Kumasi.	123
111	To Thomas Sutherst, Esq.	November 18	Accepts the submission offered by the envoys on behalf of the King, for what it may be worth, and states that the Governor will be instructed to have officials ready to accompany the envoys to Kumasi with a suitable escort for the purpose of installing the Resident.	124
112	Thomas Sutherst, Esq. -	November 19	States that a telegram has been despatched by the envoys announcing their acceptance of the conditions, and that they desire to protest against the lavish expenditure on an expedition which is now unnecessary.	125

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
		1895.		
113	To Thomas Sutherst, Esq.	November 19	Observes that Mr. Chamberlain distrusts both the motives and the authority of the envoys, and that a Resident must now be installed at Kumasi, with a force sufficient to secure his safety and to convince the King of the futility of resistance.	126
114	To Governor Maxwell -	November 21 Telegraphic.	Gives a précis of the correspondence with Mr. Sutherst, and informs him that the expedition must still proceed.	126
114A	Governor Maxwell -	(Rec. Nov. 22.) Telegraphic.	Reports that he clearly understands the correspondence between Colonial Office and Mr. Sutherst, that he still considers it necessary that the expedition should proceed to Kumasi, and that the King should be required to publicly make submission.	127
115	To Governor Maxwell -	November 22 Extract.	Explains the views and wishes of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the expedition and the arrangements consequent thereon.	127
116	Governor Maxwell -	October 28 (Rec. Nov. 22.)	Transmits the report of Capt. Stewart and Mr. Vroom on their recent mission to Kumasi, and copy of the treaty concluded with Adansi.	129
117	T. Sutherst, Esq. -	November 22	Reports that the Ashanti "envoys" sail on November 27 by the ss. "Roquelle," and gives text of atelegram which has been despatched bythem to Kumasi requesting the King to assemble all Chiefs to meet them at Kumasi; replies to Colonial Office letter of November 19 as to the willingness of the "ambassadors" to accept the demands of Her Majesty's Government.	133
118	War Office - -	November 22	Transmits copies of the instructions issued to Sir Francis Scott.	135
119	To Governor Maxwell -	November 22	Transmits copies of War Office instructions to Sir F. Scott.	136
120	Ditto - - -	November 23 Telegraphic.	States that the messengers have been informed that the King's submission must be made to him (the Governor) and that with him only can any treaty be negotiated, and requests that arrangements be considered for dealing with the "ambassadors" when they arrive.	136
121	Governor Maxwell -	(Rec. Nov. 23.) Telegraphic.	Gives text of a telegram received on November 16 in the Colony from the Ashanti messengers in England, reporting that they have accepted a British Resident.	136
122	Ditto - - -	(Rec. Nov. 24.) Telegraphic.	Expresses his deep sense of the consistent support given him by the Secretary of State, and suggests that the King should be required to send messengers to him (the Governor) intimating his acceptance of the terms, giving the messengers fresh credentials for that purpose.	137
123	Ditto - -	(Rec. Nov. 25.) Telegraphic.	Enquires whether he should send 150 men to Nkoranza in view of a possible attack by Samory.	137

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
		1895.		
124	Governor Maxwell -	(Rec. Nov. 25.) Telegraphic.	Replying to Colonial Office telegram of November 15, reports that he forwarded a letter to Samory by two special messengers on November 20, and that he is sending again to warn him that Nkoranza is friendly to Her Majesty's Government.	137
125	To T. Sutherst, Esq. -	November 25	Expresses the opinion that no useful purpose will be served by continuing the correspondence, as the issue rests with the King of Kumasi.	137
126	To Governor Maxwell -	November 26	Transmits copy of Mr. Sutherst's letter of November 22 and Colonial Office reply thereto of November 25, and states the grounds on which Mr. Chamberlain's doubt of the *bona fides* of the envoys had been expressed.	138
127	J. O. Ansah, Esq. - -	November 26	Reports that four members of the "embassy" leave the same day for the Gold Coast, and that he and his brother will join them at the Canary Islands, and proceed home with them.	138
128	Governor Maxwell -	(Rec. Nov. 27.) Telegraphic.	Reports the arrival at Prahsu of fresh special messengers from Kumasi.	138
129	To J. Ossoo Ansah, Esq. -	November 27	Acknowledges receipt of his letter of November 26.	138
130	To Governor Maxwell -	November 27 Telegraphic.	Informs him of the departure of four of the Ashanti messengers.	139
131	Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co.	(Rec. Nov. 30.) Telegraphic.	Reports that the Messrs. Ansah desire that the "Loanda" may be kept back for them, but that they cannot now be taken till December 7.	139
132	Governor Maxwell - -	November 7 (Rec. Nov. 30.)	Encloses copy of instructions to the officer commanding the detachment at Prahsu.	139
133	J. E. Harris, Esq. - -	December 2	Reports that the Messrs. Ansah have been compelled to postpone their departure until December 7.	140
134	Governor Maxwell - -	November 13 (Rec. Dec. 3.)	Forwards extract from a statement made to a local lawyer by two messengers from Yao Sapon, King of Juabin.	140
135	Ditto - -	November 13 (Rec. Dec. 3.)	Forwards a memorandum of the proceedings on the occasion of the reception of messengers from Kumasi on November 12.	141
136	Ditto - -	(Rec. Dec. 3.) Telegraphic.	Reports progress made with arrangements.	142
137	Ditto - -	(Rec. Dec. 8.) Telegraphic. Extract.	Reports the return of a special messenger to Samory, who knows nothing of any hostile operations against Nkoranza.	142
138	Ditto - -	November 18 (Rec. Dec. 12.)	Reports arrangements made in pursuance of instructions of 11th and 16th November.	143
139	Ditto - -	November 19 (Rec. Dec. 12.)	Reports a rumour that King Prempeh has been dethroned and the Queen Mother put in his place.	144

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
		1895.		
140	Governor Maxwell -	(Rec. Dec. 13.) Telegraphic. Extract.	Reports the return from Bontuku of his messenger, who witnessed the reception of a mission from Kumasi to Samory, urging an offensive alliance against the English.	144
141	Ditto - - -	(Rec. Dec. 17.) Telegraphic.	Reports that Kumasi has attacked Bekwai on account of its supposed friendly relations with Her Majesty's Government, and that the inhabitants have taken refuge in Denkera.	144
142	Ditto - -	(Rec. Dec. 18.) Telegraphic.	Acknowledges receipt of despatch of November 22, and reports that he has already seen the native messengers in public. He will decide what force must go to Kumasi on the arrival of Ansah, who is expected on December 21.	145
143	Ditto - -	(Rec. Dec. 19.) Telegraphic.	Reports that Chief Boatin and others have left for Kumasi, and request that Ansah may be sent on when he arrives.	145
144	Ditto - - -	(Rec. Dec. 20.) Telegraphic.	Gives substance of statements made by the native members of the "Embassy," who started for Kumasi on December 19, and also of the message sent through them to the King and Chiefs.	145
145	Ditto - - -	November 23 (Rec. Dec. 20.)	Transmits copy of instructions given to the officers commanding detachments of the Gold Coast Constabulary at Bompata and Nkoranza.	145
146	Ditto - -	November 23. (Rec. Dec. 20.)	States the course he proposes to pursue on the return of the Ashanti envoys from England.	147
147	To Governor Maxwell -	December 23. Telegraphic.	Instructs him to use his discretion as to proceeding to Kumassi to impose terms upon the King.	147
148	Governor Maxwell -	December 4. (Rec. Dec. 27.)	Reports progress made in the preparations for the expedition.	148
149	Ditto - -	(Rec. Dec. 27.) Telegraphic.	Records an interview with Ansah, who admitted that his credentials were forged.	150

GOLD COAST.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO

AFFAIRS IN ASHANTI.

(*In continuation of* [C. 7917] *February* 1896.)

No. 1.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received 5 p.m. January 10, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Referring to my telegram of 17th December,* special messengers from Kumasi at Cape Coast Castle by letter informed me that King has sent by special messenger following message:—

That he had written to Governor Gold Coast under date of 7th April that he would send reply to Hodgson's communication of 23rd February, that prior to the appointment of special embassy King's Council expressed opinion that question raised by letter of Hodgson was so grave and sweeping, touching as it did the constitution and construction of the King of Ashanti's independent Kingdom, that considering the unfriendly attitude already assumed by Her Majesty's Government on this Coast to the Kingdom of King of Ashanti, which he much regrets should be the case, it is impossible that mutual sympathy and understanding could be looked for or arrived at in the Colony for prevention of war and bloodshed, and that therefore special embassy should be sent to England to lay before Her Majesty and Privy Council this and other matters of importance connected with peace and progress of Ashanti Kingdom and its co-operation with settlement of Her Majesty the Queen on the coast for full discussion and final decision; that special embassy had been instructed to see Governor Gold Coast and state that they have been empowered to go on to England to see Her Majesty the Queen.

It will be observed that refusal of Her Majesty the Queen to receive special messengers, and message to King requiring immediate reply to Governor Gold Coast to Hodgson's letter, are not touched on by special messengers in this communication. My opinion is that special messengers have not communicated freely with King with regard to points involved in message delivered to them, fearing to be recalled to Kumasi, for their communication bears internal evidence that it was written by Ansah, who would probably conceal from King any circumstances calculated to cause possible changes in his mind with regard to cancelling previous orders already arranged. Under possibility of circumstances referred to, very probably King authorised Ansah's sending reply to Governor Gold Coast as he thought best. The return to station of special mission to Kumasi will clear up point.

* No. 111 in [C. 7917] February 1896.

No. 2.

Sir W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received January 14, 1895.)

Government House, Cape Coast Castle.

My Lord, December 14, 1894.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the special messengers from Ashanti arrived at Cape Coast on Monday the 10th instant. The party consisted of a Chief, a captain, a linguist, Mr. John Ossoo Ansah, and a large retinue of servants and carriers.

2. It appeared to me advisable, considering all circumstances, that I should not grant an interview to these messengers until the 12th instant, when I met them, and I transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the notes of my shorthand writer, Mr. Brew, of an interview which I then had with them in the presence of a considerable number of European and Native officials and gentlemen, including Chief Andoh of Elmina, who was of great assistance to me when Kwaku Dua sent down a threatening mission to Elmina in 1881, and Mr. Eminsang, who also rendered useful service to the Government on that occasion.

3. Your Lordship will observe that the King has declined to send me an answer to the letter which was written to him by Mr. Hodgson, by your Lordship's direction, and which was delivered to the King by Mr. Vroom.

4. I pointed out to the messengers that the King was virtually guilty of discourtesy and disrespect to Her Majesty the Queen, through her representative, in not sending me an answer to the letter which had been transmitted to him, and which he had promised in his letters both of the 7th of April and of the 28th of June that he would reply to.

5. John Ossoo Ansah, who sat with the messengers, was evidently the leading spirit among them, and frequently prompted the linguist in the Fanti language with words and suggestions.

6. Your Lordship will observe that there is somewhat of iteration in the remarks of the linguist; and also the expression of the King of Kumasi, as stated by his linguist, that mere letters to the Governor would not settle matters, and therefore, in answer to what the letters contained, he was sending his messengers to see the Queen so that they may settle everything in the presence of Her Majesty; and when I remarked that they had not brought an answer to me to the letter which had been delivered to the King by Mr. Vroom, the linguist answered the message that they carried to the Queen was a reply to all the correspondence that had been sent. Upon his stating this, I observed that I sent them a letter by the Queen's commands, and it was the duty of the King to send a reply to it to me, and I asked, "Has he sent it?" Upon which the linguist observed, "Your Excellency wrote the letter under Her Majesty's command, and we "have been deputed to see the Queen to reply to her."

7. I trouble your Lordship with these extracts from the minutes because they will serve to show here, in some measure, the character we have to deal with in the King of Kumasi, acting under the influence which is exercised over him by Mr. John Ossoo Ansah.

8. The message which your Lordship instructed me to deliver from Her Majesty's Government to the King of Kumasi, I delivered to his messengers yesterday. They asked for time to consider what action they should take in the matter and I therefore adjourned the meeting to the 15th instant, which they said would afford them sufficient time to decide the course they would pursue. It is very difficult to forecast what Ashantis may possibly do, because with them the unexpected is constantly arising. I will only add here that if this Government is to be relieved of constant trouble, annoyance, anxiety, expense, and injury to its commercial interests, it appears to me that the time has come when a most decided policy should be pursued with Ashanti. Expressing my honest belief to your Lordship, I think that the proper course which should be pursued now is to acquire thorough and unmistakeable control over Ashanti in such a manner as will put a stop, once for all, to the inconvenience, trouble, and expense which that country has been a source of to this Colony from time immemorial.

9. I called the particular attention of the messengers at the meeting yesterday to the practice of human sacrifices which had taken place at Kumasi, and to the violation of the Treaty of Fomanah, especially as regards Articles 2, 6, 7, and 8. With respect to Mr. Ansah, I exhibited him in his true character to the messengers who accompanied him, and who would not otherwise have had an opportunity of knowing the man's character and conduct and the course of deception, hypocrisy, and treachery he has been pursuing towards the King. In the course of the statements I made, I referred to correspondence

and information in the possession of the Government in order to put matters more clearly before the Chiefs, and, in consequence, the minutes of yesterday are lengthy and the shorthand writer will not be able to complete them in draft for a day or two. I mention this in order that your Lordship may understand why I am unable to send on the minutes of yesterday's meeting by this packet.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 2.

NOTES of an INTERVIEW held at GOVERNMENT HOUSE, Cape Coast Castle, on Wednesday, the 12th December 1894, with the ASHANTI EMBASSY.

Present:

His Excellency the Governor, Sir W. Brandford Griffith, K.C.M.G.
His Honour the Chief Justice, J. T. Hutchinson, Esq.
The Acting Inspector-General, Captain J. G. O. Aplin.
Assistant Inspector Middlemist.
Assistant Inspector E. C. Cooper.
Lieutenant Annesley, Adjutant of the Volunteers.
J. Hall, Esq., Private Secretary.
H. M. Hull, Esq., Travelling Commr.
D. Stewart, Esq., Travelling Commr.
Dr. D. Waldron, Assistant Colonial Surgeon.
Dr. D. M. Forde, Assistant Colonial Surgeon.
L. N. Peregrine, District Commissioner, Cape Coast.
H. Vroom, Esq., District Commissioner.
G. A. Adolphus, Esq., Supervisor of Customs.
G. Cropper, Esq., Supervisor of Customs.

Merchants.

Frank Russell, Esq.
E. E. Hochstetter, Esq.
J. M. Sarbah, Esq.
Rev. S. R. B. Solomon.
G. E. Eminsang, Esq., Elmina.
Chief Andoh, of Elmina.
Chief Thomas Odonkor, of Kpong.

The Ashanti Embassy.

Rev. Jacob B. Annam interpreted.

The Governor, addressing the Ashanti Messengers, said, On the 17th of November, I received a letter signed A. A. Ossoo Ansah in which he stated that he had received instructions from his royal relative King Kwaka Dua III. of Ashanti to join a selected number of important Chiefs, with his brother Prince John Ossoo Ansah at the head, to Her Britannic Majesty, and he inquired whether it would meet my convenience to receive these special messengers at Cape Coast Castle as the King was very desirous that they should have an interview with me before their departure for England, and he stated, in connexion with another matter, that the mission from the King to Her Britannic Majesty was of a very pacific nature. Now, Chiefs, I am here to listen to what you have to say.

Linguist.—The King of Ashanti salutes your Excellency with many many thanks and with a well-done. All the people in Ashanti thank you. The Queen of Ashanti thanks your Excellency. I, Kwaku, am the King's linguist; Buatin is the King's Head Chief; Nkroma is the King's captain; cane bearers and servants. The King sends us to your Excellency to tell your Excellency that Mr. Ansah (John Ossoo) is the royal relative of his; all matters connected with the King of Ashanti have been entrusted to Mr. Ansah, and the King sends us to accompany him to your Excellency so that we may see him go to Her Majesty the Queen. His younger brother Mr. Ansah (Albert A. Ossoo) is to accompany him to see the Queen. That is our message.

The Governor.—That is your message. Is that all?

Linguist.—Yes, Sir.

The Governor.—Where is the answer to the letter that was written to the King of Kumasi by the commands of Her Majesty the Queen? It is over seven months since the King wrote to say that he would send an answer. Mr. Ansah understands it thoroughly, because he wrote the letter.

Linguist.—That is the reason why the King of Ashanti has sent Mr. Ansah and the other envoys to the Queen.

The Governor.—But they have got to communicate with me. I want to know whether they have brought me an answer from the King to that letter. He said he would send a special messenger with an answer to it. Mr. Ansah knows all about it, because he wrote the letter, and Mr. Vroom is here, who took it to Kumasi.

Linguist and Ansah.—The reply to the letter is what the King of Ashanti has sent us to communicate to her, the Queen.

The Governor.—But you must communicate with me, Her Majesty's representative.

Linguist.—The King is very anxious that perpetual peace be effected in Ashanti. His Majesty thinks that if he keeps writing to your Excellency that will not settle matters for good. Therefore he has deputed them to Her Majesty the Queen so that every matter may be entirely settled. Mere letters will not settle matters, so His Majesty has sent them to go and see the Queen so that peace may be perpetually effected in Ashanti.

The Governor.—But peace is not likely to be perpetually effected in Ashanti if you treat the Queen's representative with discourtesy and disrespect, and the King of Kumasi—for I do not recognise him as King of Ashanti—said he would send a reply to that letter. You know it, for you wrote it, and you have done all the mischief (referring to Ansah).

Linguist.—It is so.

The Governor.—Then do I understand that that is the message that you brought to me from the King, and that you have not brought me an answer to that letter.

Linguist.—The King has received several letters. One officer, Mr. Hull, took up a letter to the King. Then Mr. Vroom took another letter to him, just because the British Government wish peace to be effected in Ashanti. In answer to these letters, the King has sent us to this place with his compliments to his good friend, your Excellency. He thinks that mere letters to your Excellency will not settle matters, and therefore, in answer to what the letters contain, he has sent them to see the Queen so that they may settle everything in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen.

The Governor.—Then they have not brought an answer to me to the letter which was delivered to the King by Mr. Vroom.

Linguist.—The message that they carried to the Queen is a reply to all the correspondence that has been sent.

The Governor.—But I sent them a letter by the Queen's commands and it is the duty of the King to send a reply to that letter to me. Has he sent an answer to me?

Linguist.—Your Excellency wrote the letter under her Majesty's command, and we have been deputed to see the Queen herself to reply to her.

The Governor.—Well, I wish them to understand clearly that they are treating me, her Majesty's representative, and thereby through me, one who is far beyond me, the Queen, with the utmost discourtesy and disrespect by the course they are proposing to take.

Linguist.—Far from it, your Excellency,

The Governor.—You may say what you please. It is the case, and you know that in common life if one person writes a letter to another and the person who receives that letter does not reply to it, it is regarded as an act of discourtesy and disrespect.

Linguist.—His Majesty the King of Ashanti has treated your letter with courtesy, because in answer to your letter his Majesty has sent us to the Queen.

The Governor.—That is not an answer to the letter. I am the Queen's representative, and it is the duty of the King of Kumasi to send an answer to that letter to me, the Queen's representative, as the Governor of this Colony. Very well. I will now tell you that I have a message from the Queen to deliver to you, and to your King, and I will deliver it to you to-morrow, at this time, 3 o'clock.

Interview ended.

No. 3.

Sir W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received January 19, 1895.)

Telegraphic.

Under date of 8 January, last night received news from special mission to King of Kumasi, where mission arrived 3 January, having been delayed by King at a village in neighbourhood for a day. Members of mission had had interview with King, they

were to have final interview with him on 10th January. Members of mission express opinion that Kumasis have no intention to agree to proposals of treaty, and are even uncertain whether Kumasis will give an answer to letter of 23rd February. Special mission expected to be able to depart from Kumasi 15th January, arrival expected about 25th January at Cape Coast Castle. Have heard that special messengers from King of Kumasi at Cape Coast Castle, in order to escape from winter in England, will not go home* before March.

No. 4.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received January 21, 1895.)

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,
December 26, 1894.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 14th instant,† I have now the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information a copy of the notes of an interview which I had with the special messenger from Kumasi on the 13th instant. The notes are self-descriptive. It will be observed Mr. John Ansah asserted that he was born in Kumasi. The information upon which I made the statement that he was a native of Cape Coast, and therefore a British subject, was derived from native sources in this town. However, in consequence of his denial, I have caused further inquiry to be instituted, and I have since learnt that John Ansah was born in Kumasi, but was brought thence to Cape Coast when he was a month old. The younger Ansah was born in Cape Coast. In stating to the messengers the information I placed before them relative to Mr. John Ansah, my object was to discredit him with them and thereby to induce them to return to Kumasi and consult with the King before taking any further action as to going to England. But in the result it appeared to me, so far as I could judge from their countenances and manner, that Ansah's influence over them, and their fear of him, were so great, that they would scarcely take up a position independently of him.

2. On the 15th instant, at a final interview which I had with the special messengers, Mr. John Ansah presented a written paper, a copy of which is enclosed. With regard to this paper I will at this time only refer to a remark made in it, that the messengers noticed the spirit and passion with which I addressed them. This statement is without any foundation, as I will show by the concurrent testimony of all present (except the Ashantis) when I can transmit the shorthand writer's notes of the final interview I had with the messengers. He has since been so closely occupied with other pressing clerical work as to be unable to write them out clear as yet, but I hope they may be ready for the next mail.

3. I also transmit copy of a communication received from Mr. Ansah on behalf of himself and the other messengers dated the 17th December, together with a copy of my reply.

4. Upon the receipt on the 21st instant of your Lordship's telegram‡ directing me to forbid the Ashanti messengers going to England, I wrote to them, as will be seen on reference to my notice of equal date, of which a copy is enclosed.

5. It will be observed in a Memorandum of which a transcript is attached to this despatch, that the Ashanti messengers refused, in the first and second instances, to receive the written communication I addressed to them with your Lordship's direction forbidding them to go to England.

6. In obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 21st instant,‡ as soon as possible after its receipt I directed Captain Stewart and Mr. Vroom to prepare to leave Elmina on Monday morning, the 24th instant, for Kumasi, and I have the honour to enclose, for your Lordship's information, transcripts of two letters I addressed to them containing the instructions for their guidance on the mission they are charged with. The party left Elmina at 8 a.m. on Monday, the 24th instant, and will probably cross the Prah river (at 85 miles from Elmina) either to-morrow evening, the 27th instant, or more probably on the morning of Friday, the 28th instant, if they are not delayed by their carriers. Assuming that the mission does not remain more than a week at Kumasi, and that the mere travelling will occupy

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* *i.e.* England.

† No. 2.

‡ No. 113 in [C. 7917.]

18 days both ways, it is possible the mission may return to Cape Coast by the 18th of January. But, in view of the procrastinating and temporising character of the Ashantis, it may possibly be detained until the end of January.

7. I attach to this despatch, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter I addressed to the Acting Inspector-General on the 22nd instant relative to the escort to accompany the mission, together with a copy of his reply, dated the 23rd December (Sunday).

8. The messengers from Ashanti remain here. I understand they have sent a messenger to Kumasi to King Prempeh.

9. I intend to stay at Cape Coast until the Inspector-General, Colonel Sir Francis Scott, arrives, which should be about the 29th instant, and I will then return to my head-quarters at Accra, if I should then consider that it will be of no use my remaining at this place, where the climate has been, and is, most trying, owing to the intense heat and strong harmattan weather.

I have, &c.
W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

NOTES of an INTERVIEW held at Government House, Cape Coast Castle, on Thursday, the 13th December 1894, at 3.33 p.m., with the Messengers from the King of Kumasi calling themselves the ASHANTI EMBASSY.

Present:

His Excellency the Governor, Sir W. Brandford Griffith, K.C.M.G.
His Honour the Chief Justice, J. T. Hutchinson, Esq.
The Acting Inspector-General, Captain J. G. O. Aplin.
L. N. Peregrine, Esq., District Commissioner, Cape Coast.
Assistant Inspector Middlemist.
Assistant Inspector E. C. Cooper.
Lieutenant Annesley, Adjutant of the Volunteers.
J. Hall, Esq., Private Secretary.
H. M. Hull, Esq., Travelling Commr.
D. Stewart, Esq., Travelling Commr.
Dr. W. Waldron, Assistant Colonial Surgeon.
Dr. D. M. Forde, Assistant Colonial Surgeon.
H. Vroom, Esq., District Commissioner.
P. A. Adolphus, Esq., Supervisor of Customs.
G. Cropper, Esq., Supervisor of Customs.
Captain A. H. Inglefield, Senior Surveyor of Roads.
Edward Rice, Esq., Foreman of Works.

Merchants.

Frank Russell, Esq.
E. E. Hochstetter, Esq.
J. M. Sarbah, Esq.

Other Persons.

Rev. S. R. B. Solomon.
G. E. Eminsang, Esq.
Frank Essien, Esq.
B. J. Kwofi, Esq,
Chief Andoh of Elmina.
Chief Thomas Odonkor of Kpong.

The Ashanti Embassy, or Special Messengers.

Rev. *Jacob B. Anaman* interpreted.

Usual compliments exchanged.

Governor to *Captain Stewart.*—What o'clock is it?

Captain Stewart.—Three minutes after half-past three.

The Governor to the *Messengers.*—I want to call your attention to the fact that I requested you to be here to-day at three o'clock, and I understand that my officer Mr. Vroom had to send twice for you. It is now more than half-past three o'clock. I have to tell you that the Governor is not accustomed to be treated in that way.

Linguist.—We apologise to your Excellency.

The Governor.—Chief Buatin, were you at Accra for about three years some time ago when Governor Young was there?

Chief Buatin.—Yes, your Excellency.

The Governor.—Are you the same Chief Buatin whom I sent back to Ashanti under protection.

Chief Buatin.—Yes, your Excellency.

The Governor.—Do you recollect coming down about five years ago with a message to me from the King of Kumasi accompanied by Mr. John Ossoo Ansah?

Chief Buatin.—I do not remember.

The Governor.—Do you recollect that you said to me that the King had asked you to request me when you delivered your message not to allow Mr. Ansah to be present?

Chief Buatin.—I did not say so. With your permission I will make my explanation.

The Governor.—Yes; do so.

Chief Buatin.—What I know is this. That I was first sent by the King and afterwards Mr. Ansah, and other messengers also were deputed by the King. When the ambassadors reached Accra, your Excellency sent to call me to come and listen to the message which was then brought by the ambassadors, among whom Mr. Ansah was included. When we came, your Excellency asked me whether the message had been delivered in my presence. I replied, "not so, your Excellency," but the message was sent after I had departed. The message that was sent per the ambassadors, among whom Mr. Ansah was included, had no reference to us. The ambassadors were accompanied by many other people, among whom were Fantis, Elminas, and other people. When the ambassadors who came after us arrived, I stated that as they were not sent together with us but were sent after we had been deputed, and we did not know what message they brought from the King, and the ambassadors were mixed up with foreigners, I said that they must excuse us, so that we may speak to your Excellency because of the people who were then mixed up with the ambassadors. That is what I said. When I said so, your Excellency requested the other messengers to retire, and when they had done so we delivered our message to your Excellency.

The Governor.—Have you finished?

Buatin.—That is the answer to your question.

The Governor to *Mr. Anaman.*—I want you to interpret this. This is a memorandum of an interview which I had with Mr. John Ossoo Ansah at Christiansborg Castle on the 13th of June, the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Hodgson, being present, and, as well as I recollect, Mr. George E. Ferguson being the shorthand writer. This was on the 13th June 1889.

"Mr. Ansah said that, having been away at the Niger from 1879 to 1886, the arrival of Buake from Ashanti during the threatened Ashanti invasion of 1881, as well as the death of his father, took place during his absence, and on his return in 1886 he proposed to visit his relatives in Kumasi, which he did in this year (1889), and that while there, seeing the ruined state of Kumasi, he advised the King to hand over the kingdom to the English, expressing the opinion at the same time that under the good government of the English the tribes who left Ashanti would return. He offered to be their representative here; the King of Ashanti consented, documents were drawn up, after which Mr. Ansah told them that, to represent them before the Governor his Excellency must approve, or rather recognise, him as ambassador, and with this object the King gave him messengers to accompany him here. It was with surprise, therefore, that Mr. Ansah said he heard Buatin and followers say they did not wish him to be present at the delivery of their message."

So much, therefore, his Excellency remarked, for Buatin's explanation.

The Governor continued.—This palaver to day is a very serious palaver, and I shall have to enter at considerable length upon several points, arising chiefly out of statements made by Mr. Albert Arthur Ossoo Ansah and out of other circumstances, and it will take up some time for me to put all these matters before you. You will have observed in what I read to you from this paper that Mr. Ansah stated to me on the 13th of June 1889 that he advised the King to hand over the kingdom of Ashanti to the English, expressing the opinion at the same time that under the good government of the English the tribes which had left Ashanti would return. Mr. Vroom was sent by Mr. Hodgson, by the Queen's command, to the King of Kumasi in March of this year with a letter. That letter made certain proposals to the King of Ashanti. Mr. Ansah took advantage of Mr. Vroom's return to write a letter to me by Mr. Vroom, That letter was dated at Kumasi on the 5th of April 1894, and, amongst other things. Mr. Ansah stated as follows:—

"His Majesty the King, Kings, Chiefs, and principal men of Ashanti, having found that without my assistance they could do no better than to leave all the business in my hands with the British Government, I was then preparing to be sent to the Coast to arrange matters between the British Government and Ashanti, for I shall be proud to live to see, and for the future welfare of my people, that Ashanti kingdom is one of Her Majesty the great Queen of England and Empress of India's territories, when unfortunately the late war with Nkoranza took place. I objected

to it greatly, and having no one to support, only His Majesty the King seems to agree with me on some points, I was placed on the background and they took their war. I spoke to His Majesty very strongly and explained to him the nature of what war brings, he took my advice and I obtained the leave to go to the camp to try to bring in the warriors; I went and tried but was not successful, and if I was present at the fight it was merely a matter of satisfying my curiosity, and I believe if I had not been there, I fear Ashanti might have trespassed on the grounds of the British Government, for I positively told them that if they do chase the King of Nkoranza as far as Attabubu, Ashanti shall have to reckon with the British Powers. However, they took this my advice and returned from Abeasi."

Mr. Ansah then, after explaining that people were speaking scandal of him, stated:—

"I know if I am successful in bringing my people into the light of civilisation, as a Prince I shall be highly respected in a civilised circle, but what is a Prince of a barbarous country? The Ashantis think that in days gone by were days of prosperity. I repudiated the idea with them, and argued that if Ashanti were to take my simple advice, and be one with the British Government, they would soon see it clearly that those days that had gone by, for which they call it days of prosperity, were only days of torment, although they had not seen it to be so, but for the one which I propose will be surely days of continual peace and happiness."

I call attention to the great desire of Mr. Ansah to make Ashanti a part of the British territory, because in a letter which I received from his brother, and which I will read by-and-by, it will be seen that all of a sudden a perfectly different proposal has come under the consideration of Mr. Ansah. Well, Mr. Ansah entrusted that letter to me to Mr. Vroom for delivery with a note. The note is dated Kumasi, 5th April 1894. It commences thus:—

"Dear Sir and Bro." "Bro." is a contraction of the word "Brother." It means that Mr. Ansah is a Mason and that Mr. Vroom is a Mason; that is, belongs to a secret society which meets at night. And there is a popular delusion that Masons help each other in this country. Mr. Ansah wrote to Mr. Vroom as follows:—

"Will you kindly take with you a letter I have addressed to his Excellency the Governor and send herewith under a flying seal. I trust you can vouch for the views I have expressed in this letter, and that you may be able from your own knowledge to explain matters to his Excellency so as to remove any doubts he may through misrepresentation entertain of my conduct in regard to Ashanti affairs."

Mr. Vroom's reply was characteristic of the man. He wrote to Mr. Ansah at Kumasi on the 9th April in these words:—

"In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, written immediately after I had pointed out to you the risk you are running by the line of conduct you have hitherto pursued in Ashanti affairs, I must tell you that I cannot deceive his Excellency the Governor by endorsing statements which, so far as I know, are incorrect and contrary to your actions."

And Mr. Vroom added:—"It is my duty to inform his Excellency the true state of affairs as I found them."

With regard to the letter Mr. Ansah had the audacity to write to me, he was answered by my private secretary, who wrote to him as follows:—

"I am directed by the Governor to state that it is unnecessary for his Excellency to "say anything with regard to these letters at present"—that is, his letter to me and his letter to Mr. Vroom—"but his Excellency will take care that you shall hear more of "them presently and that they are brought to the knowledge of the King of Kumasi in "a way in which there shall be no misunderstanding, so far as the King is concerned, of "the part you are playing, which is not unlikely to place you, sooner or later, in a very "serious position with this Government."

I mention these matters with the particular object that the linguist and Buatin, if they have the courage to speak boldly to the King when they go back, may let the King know what I have stated, because the King cannot speak, nor understand, nor write English. Mr. Ansah has done his work for him, and, as I think he may not know what Mr. Ansah has written, I have determined to call your attention to the particular points that you, too, may mention them again to the King of Kumasi.

Well, on the 14th March 1874 a treaty was executed between the representatives of the King of Ashanti and all the Ashanti Chiefs, and signed on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen by Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell, the Acting Administrator, and the witnesses to the document were James Marshall, Chief Magistrate and Judicial Assessor, and Charles Cameron Lees, Acting Colonial Secretary.

By Article 2 of that Treaty "the King of Ashanti promises to pay the sum of "' 50,000 ounces of approved gold as indemnity for the expenses he had occasioned to " Her Majesty the Queen of England by the late war." Only 1,000 ounces of that money have been paid. The remainder is still due by the country of Ashanti as a whole. It was stated with regard to the indemnity of 50,000 ounces that after the payment of 1,000 ounces of gold forthwith the remainder shall be paid by such instalments as Her Majesty's Government may from time to time demand; therefore the remainder is payable as stated. Her Majesty's Government being disposed to treat Ashanti kindly has not hitherto pressed that demand. But the book is there, and the money is still due.

By Article 6 it was agreed that there should be freedom of trade between Ashanti and Her Majesty's forts on the coast, all persons being at liberty to carry their merchandize from the coast to Kumasi or from that place to any of Her Majesty's possessions on the coast.

Notwithstanding this agreement, the Ashantis have over and over again stopped the roads and prevented traders from going from one country to another, so that that section of the treaty has been violated.

Under Article 7 "the King of Ashanti guarantees that the road from Kumasi to the "river" (that is, to the Prah) "shall always be kept open and free from bush to a width " of 15 feet." This has not been done. That section of the treaty, therefore, has been violated.

And by Article 8 it is declared that, "as Her Majesty's subjects and the people of " Ashanti are henceforth to be friends for ever, the King, in order to prove the sincerity " of his friendship to Queen Victoria, promises to use his best endeavours to check the " practice of human sacrifice with a view to hereafter putting an end to it altogether, " as the practice is repugnant to the feelings of all Christian nations," and, Mr. Ansah, to that kind of civilisation which you have stated in your letter that you so much admire.

I will now proceed to show the instances in which, as far as the evidence that I have received goes, this section of the treaty has been violated. It has been greatly violated this year by the King of Kumasi. It was violated, too, before that by the Kings who preceded him. When Mr. Vroom was at Kumasi, after he had refused to support Mr. Ansah's letter to me, the King of Kumasi showed great anxiety that Mr. Vroom should return to Accra. He said that Mr. Vroom had come up at a time when he had to perform some of the most serious of the customs in connexion with the death of one of his sisters. That was in April of this year. In a return sent in by the clerk in charge at Prahsu, under date of the 6th of May, he states having been informed by a Kumasi trader (I won't mention the man's name because it would cost him his head), " that the funeral custom of the late sister of King Prempeh, mentioned by him in his " previous return dated 22nd April, commenced on Monday last, the 30th April 1894, " and that about 50 persons were decapitated for the said funeral custom."

In the "Gold Coast Methodist Times" of the 31st of August 1894 there was a statement under the head of "*Ashanti*" (*from a correspondent*)—*Coronation of Prempeh.*—*Magnificent Display of Royalty*—that—

"After the coronation festivities, the Chiefs and King with his Councillors are said to have devoted full two weeks to deliberations as to how order and peace could be restored in the kingdom, and Ashanti regain its past glory and renown. The assembly dispersed about the 24th June, it having been agreed to levy from the nation an amount of money to send to the British Government for the giving back to the kingdom of Esibey of Kokofu and Nkansa of Adansi, Chiefs who have taken refuge in the Protectorate. To this end 40 pereguins (324*l.*) was to be raised by each of the great Chiefs in their various districts."

The next paragraph is headed as follows:—

"*A dreadful slaughter of human victims!*"

"It being customary with the new King of Ashanti, on his enthronement, to observe a general funeral custom for royal relatives deceased, Prempeh, also being now installed, kept the hereditary custom by slaying some 400 human beings in cold blood, in honour of the royal dead, each of his Chiefs bringing him presents of human victims from their provinces, except the Chief of Bekwai, who brought gold dust instead of human victims, stating his intention to conform to British custom and practice, for, said he, 'My 'ancestors did not prosper by their human sacrifices, and I am determined not to follow 'their practices.'"

When I read that, I had heard a good deal about the fearful murders for these customs, but I could hardly bring myself to believe it, although I had heard it from several people. I heard also from one man, who said he was in Kumasi at the time, that he knew the murders were going on, but he did not leave his house for fear of being killed. He stated that he lived close to Prince Ansah, and Prince Ansah must have known all that was going on. He did not say that he had himself seen the people murdered, but that his servants told him they had witnessed the executions. When I read this statement in the newspaper I was very much shocked, especially as I knew that Mr. John Ossoo Ansah was the principal adviser of the King in everything, and particularly as he had been writing to me prating about his views being so favourable to civilisation. A short time after this newspaper was published, I had an opportunity of having an interview with a native gentleman, who I understood was one of the Editors of the "Gold Coast Methodist Times," and I said to him: Is that statement in your paper to be relied upon? Do you know the responsibility you have taken upon yourself in making a statement of that kind unless it is strictly accurate? In reply he said to me, I assure you it is true. There is not the slightest doubt about it. I have got it from sources which are beyond doubt; and, he added, I have also received information of such cruelties, barbarities, and atrocities practised upon the unfortunate Nkoranzas and others that I dare not publish it, because it would be an outrage to public feeling and decency if I did so. I have shown by this statement, and by other statements I have made, how section 8 of the treaty has been violated; and the officer in charge of a detachment of the army of the Gold Coast Hausas, which is at present in Kwahu, wrote to me on the 30th October stating; "I hear the Chief of Ofeso when "sacrificing four people at his uncle's death-custom did so openly in the streets in full "view of all his people."

On the 22nd October I received a letter, dated 5th October, from Mr. Albert Arthur Ossoo Ansah in which he wrote as follows:—

"It is much to be regretted that scurrilous reports, of the nature exhibited in the 'G. C. M. Times' of August 31, should also be taken up by the 'G. C. People' newspaper of September 24 *re* the alleged atrocities in Ashanti. I have written the editor of the first-named paper on this matter, a copy of which I herewith submit for your Excellency's perusal, and I am confident that your Excellency, from your great knowledge of Gold Coast affairs, will not be misled by reports such as these to take any hasty course of action, for undoubtedly your Excellency will remember how a similar report turned out on investigation by the Government, during the administration of the much lamented Governor Sir Samuel Rowe. I must mention that I am forwarding a copy of this to my agents in London to have the same published in Mr. Labouchere's paper, the 'Truth,' and also a copy each to such of my correspondents in England as I may consider advisable. As my countrymen are desirous of continuing their independence, I beg here to strongly suggest to your Excellency that it is essential that the Government ought now to formally acknowledge Ashanti as an independent native empire, or in other words engagements entered into with her similar to the understanding now existing between Her Majesty's Government and the Ameer of Afghanistan by which annexation by any Power is rendered impossible."

That is a very grand idea of that young man's, but you will see how all of a sudden a difference of opinion has sprung up between the two brothers. The eldest, who is the Prime Minister of the King of Kumasi, is in favour of Ashanti being an English protectorate, and the other is for Ashanti being placed on a par with Afghanistan. Then Mr. Albert Arthur Ossoo Ansah wrote a letter to the "Gold Coast Methodist Times" in which he said:—

"Sir,—*Re* your issue dated 31st August, in an article headed 'Ashanti' you observe that there has been dreadful slaughtering of human beings in Ashanti in connection with the coronation of the present King. I must at once write to deny this fact, for since the above publication I have made every inquiry and have found out that, but for the national rejoicings in June attendant on every such occasion at the capital, nothing beyond this had taken place. And I write this at once because as a Prince of that country I cannot allow such a fabrication, since that there is not a particle of truth in it, to pass uncontradicted.* I consider it a pure bogus trumped-up business to get the Christian world against our nationality, but readers of Gold Coast papers should

* Extract from "The Gold Coast People." "In the month of June last Prempeh connived at, if he did not "order, the butchery of 400 human beings as sacrifice to his bloody stool. From an eye-witness we have learnt "what atrocious things were done in Coomassie; but we have no wish to pollute our pages with a description "of the revolting, cruel, and savage iniquities committed in open day in the streets of the Ashanti capital."
September 24, 1894. W. B. G.

remember that some time in the eighties similar scurrilous prints were circulated to the effect that the Ex-King Mensah had caused to be slaughtered over 300 (three hundred) young virgins for the purpose of utilising their blood in repairing a royal sepulchre, and which caused great commotion and was recopied into several English papers, but on official inquiry by the local Government this report was found to be pure myth.

" Happily the sacrifices of days gone by have long been done away with, and for the present only persons who are tried and found to be murderers and conspirators suffer the capital punishment. The administration of justice is impartially administered, and this cannot be denied by any Gold Coast native."

Now with regard to these 300 young virgins, it certainly did not appear that 300 young women had been taken up and murdered in the way it was reported, but Captain Lonsdale, Mr. Watts, District Commissioner then of Cape Coast, and others who looked into the matter, stated that although there could not be got any information to prove that 300 young virgins had been so sacrificed, yet there was no doubt whatever that fully 200 persons had been sacrified in a short time previous. But in reply to Mr. A. A. Ossoo Ansah's letter the Editor of the newspaper stated:—" The Prince " might have made inquiries and found out that something was not true, but we may " respectfully inform him that what did appear in our columns to which he refers was " not a bogus trumped-up business to get the Christian world against his nationality— " a nation we greatly admire. We can assure the Prince that what we printed was " perfectly true; other informations more fiendish and atrocious have since come to our " knowledge. Perhaps it will be better for the Prince to make personal inquiries into " these things by going over to Ashanti himself." That, in addition, will also go to show how the treaty has been violated in regard to the sacrificing of people.

Again, Mr. Albert Arthur Ossoo Ansah wrote me a letter in which he stated that the Embassy was coming down, and he was good enough to send me a copy of a letter which he intended to send to the Editor of the " Gold Coast Methodist Times." It was dated the 15th November; I do not think the " Methodist Times " for November is out yet, but this is what he wrote to the Editor:—

" Sir,—Now that public opinion is divided as to the relative position of my father, the late Prince John Ossoo Ansah of Ashanti with the English Government, perhaps it would be interesting to your readers, to know this as officially defined in a despatch from Lord John Russell to President Maclean, a copy of which I enclose for publication, dated at Downing Street, 22nd March 1841.

" You will see from this despatch that his receipt of 100*l.* allowance from Imperial funds did not make him a British subject, neither was he in any way bound to live in the Colony." (*Governor.*—That is perfectly true.)

" And I must here publicly state, and I say so on behalf of my brother John Ossoo Ansah, that we never naturalised ourselves as British subjects nor considered ourselves as such at any time."

It was unnecessary for that person to do this, because Prince Ossoo Ansah, their father, married a native of this town. I have been informed that she was never in Kumasi, and that her two sons were born and brought up at Cape Coast.

Mr. J. O. Ansah.—I was born in Kumasi.

The Governor.—I have stated my information as regards that. Now, according to British law—and I am speaking in the presence of one of the ablest British jurists who ever came to the Gold Coast, and in the presence of several members of the English Bar—I say that any person born in any part of Her Majesty's dominions, wherever those dominions lie, is a British subject, and the law even goes so far as to show that if any person is born in a British ship that person is a British subject; and as to naturalisation, that is unnecessary in the country in which anyone is born.

Mr. J. O. Ansah.—I was born in Kumasi.

The Governor.—But I have been informed that you were born in Cape Coast. Now you took the oath of allegiance to the Queen when you became a member of the Gold Coast Rifle Corps.

Mr. J. O. Ansah.—I never took the oath of allegiance.

The Governor.—You must have. You can ask any volunteer whether he was not required to take that oath when enrolled. And, what is more, you were engaged in the operations of 1873 and 1874 against Ashanti, and you obtained a medal for it. (Mr. Ansah bowed affirmatively.) But you say you were not born in Cape Coast but in Kumasi. Well, in that case, in joining the British you were operating against your own country—a very patriotic act!

Then as to another point. In December 1889 the King of Kumasi transmitted a letter to me to be forwarded to the Right Honourable the Lord Knutsford, Her Majesty's

Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies. That letter was dated the 27th December 1889, and was as follows. Mr. Ansah wrote that letter for the King :—

" My Lord,—It is my greatest pleasure that I take the liberty of writing you; as I believe I am the first King of Ashanti that ever have send a letter to England, and trust Her Majesty's Government will give me all assistance and good advice for the well government of my Ashanti kingdom.

" I believe if there is any grievance in me, Her Majesty's Government is able to remove same, therefore I send the accompanying copy of a letter to the Governor Administering the Gold Coast Government for your kind perusal, and I trust Her Majesty's Government will assist me in this important matter, as have been always done.

" I wish Her Majesty's Government a merry Christmas and a prosperous and blessed New Year."

That was five years ago. The Right Honourable the Secretary of State, in replying to the Despatch in which I forwarded this letter, wrote to me with regard to the letter addressed to him by the King of Kumasi—and I wish you to take notice of this. Tell Buatin and Kwaku Freku that I wish them to take particular notice of this, and Mr. Ansah too. It will be interpreted to them after I have read it out :—

" With regard to the letter addressed to me by the King of Ashanti, I request you to inform him in reply that Her Majesty's Government hope that he will follow the advice given to him by the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, who is their representative and knows their wishes."

And on the receipt of this letter I addressed one to the King of Kumasi dated 16th July 1890 as follows :—

" King,—I am directed by the Right Honourable the Lord Knutsford, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, to inform you, in reply to a letter which you addressed to his Lordship from Kumasi, under date the 27th December 1889, that Her Majesty's Government hope that you will follow the advice given to you by the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, who is their representative and knows their wishes."

I hope you understand that, Chief Buatin and Kwaku Freku, because you will have to go and tell it to the King of Kumasi. Well, a letter was sent by the Queen's command by Mr. Hodgson, who was acting as Governor during my absence on leave, to Prempeh, King of Kumasi, and in that letter it was proposed that a British Agent should be placed in Ashanti, and if war should take place, or if there was any complaint or dispute, he was to be consulted, and if his decision was in favour of the King of Kumasi, in such case the matter was to be referred to the Governor for certain reasons; the object being to promote trade and to put a stop to wars. The King through Mr. Ansah wrote me a letter on the 7th April 1894 in which he states as follows :—

" Your Excellency,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd February last per your officer Mr. H. Vroom, Native District Commissioner, and in reply I beg to state that my district Kings, Chiefs, and principal men will be here about the middle of this month for some of our very important business, when the subject of the British Government, which is not a small case, will be discussed, and an express messenger will be sent to your Excellency with a final decision of the subject."

I got another letter, dated 28th June, from the King, in which he stated :—

" I send my Sword-bearer, Kofi Buar, and Court Crier, Ofori, with this to inform your Excellency that my district Kings, Chiefs, and principal men of Ashanti have come to the capital, and the important subject of the British Government have been laid before them, and I am preparing to send my grandson, Prince Ansah, together with two of my influential Chiefs, Chief Boatin and Chief Kwaku Fokoo, Linguist, Inkrumah, Kojo Tufu, Akyempon Daban, Sword-bearers, and Bondar, Court Crier, to you with the final decision of the important letter per Mr. Vroom, your Native District Commissioner, and I believe, if I do not say anything about this important subject before the arrival of my messengers, you may think that my mind is not very particular about it."

Well, that letter is dated the 28th of June, and five months have passed before the messengers have come down here. The King took that opportunity to inform me as follows :—" From what I have gathered from him (Ansah) as well as my district Kings, " Chiefs, and principal men of Ashanti that he is a very good assistant, and a very good " adviser, that if he could, and if it is in his power, he would bring up his grandfather's " nation to a great and dignified state."

I replied to the King's letter on the 3rd August, and I told him—

"I have read what is stated in the communication written by Mr. John Ossoo Ansah, and observe that you will send some of your Chiefs and other people to me with the final decision which it is stated that you and your supporters have come to upon the important letter forwarded to you by Mr. Vroom. I will not say more upon the subject matter of that letter but will await the receipt of the communication mentioned."

Now, before I go further, I will quote again from the "Gold Coast Methodist Times," from a special telegram which was sent to that newspaper by Mr. Albert Arthur Ossoo Ansah.

I believe you are Mr. Albert Arthur Ossoo Ansah?

Mr. A. A. Ossoo Ansah.—Yes, Sir.

The Governor.—And you and your brother were dismissed from the public service?

Mr. A. A. Ossoo Ansah.—I was not dismissed; I was discharged.

The Governor.—You were dismissed, and I have the papers to prove this.

This is what Mr. A. A. Ossoo Ansah sends as a special telegram from Axim:—

"Prince Albert Arthur Ossoo Ansah having been commissioned by His Majesty King Quacoe Duah the Third of Ashanti to act as one of the special Ambassadors to the Court of St. James, London, left this day by the steamship "Ambriz" for Cape Coast Castle to await the arrival of the rest of the envoys; it is stated that his elder brother Prince John, who has been acting as Prime Minister to his royal relation for the past four years, is head of the mission; the Embassy hopes to winter in England, and after completing their diplomatic mission to the British Court they will probably visit other European capitals, notably Paris and the Hague. Prince John is expected at Cape Coast Castle middle of current month with a retinue of about 500 all told and in grand state."

Well, as the promised messengers did not make their appearance, I wrote another despatch to the Secretary of State informing him that I contemplated sending a mission to inquire into the matter. I did this as the Secretary of State had written under date of 20th July:—

"If you do not hear soon from the King of Ashanti, you should consider whether it would be desirable to send up a message informing him that you are directed to state that his answer to the communication which you made to him by the order of Her Majesty's Government cannot be indefinitely delayed (I want you to bear that in mind), and warning him that he must not interfere with any of the Kings who have entered into treaties with the Gold Coast Government."

Now the messengers have at last come down and this is the answer they have brought me. The Linguist commenced by saying:—

"The King of Ashanti salutes your Excellency with many many thanks and with a well done. All the people in Ashanti thank you. The Queen of Ashanti thanks your Excellency, I, Kwaku, am the King's Linguist; Buatin is the King's Head Chief; Nkroma is the King's Captain; cane-bearers and servants. The King sends us to your Excellency to tell your Excellency that Mr. Ansah (John Ossoo) is the royal relative of his, all matters connected with the King of Ashanti have been entrusted to Mr. Ansah, and the King sends us to accompany him to your Excellency so that we may see him go to Her Majesty the Queen. His younger brother, Mr. Ansah (Albert A. Ossoo), is to accompany him to see the Queen. That is our message."

And I said, "That is your message! Is that all?"

To this the Linguist replied, "Yes, Sir."

I then asked:—"Where is the answer to the letter that was written to the King of "Kumasi by the command of Her Majesty the Queen? It is over seven months since "the King wrote to say that he would send an answer. Mr. Ansah understands it "thoroughly, because he wrote the letter."

The Linguist.—"That is the reason why the King of Ashanti has sent Mr. Ansah "and the other Envoys to the Queen."

I said, "But they have got to communicate with me. I want to know whether "they have brought me an answer from the King to that letter. He said he would "send a special messenger with an answer to it. Mr. Ansah knows all about it, because "he wrote the King's letter, and Mr. Vroom is here, who took the Acting Governor's "letter to Kumasi."

The Linguist and *Mr. Ansah* said:—"The reply to the letter is what the King of Ashanti has sent us to communicate to Her Majesty the Queen."

Then, passing over some desultory observations, the Governor remarked, "Very well, "I now have to tell you that I have a message from the Queen to deliver to you and "to your King, and I will deliver it to you to-morrow at this time, three o'clock."

The Governor.—"I told you yesterday that I had a message for you and your King from Her most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, and this is the message:—

(At this point the Governor rose and all present also rose, the band playing a few bars of the National Anthem.)

"Inform the King of Kumasi that the special Embassy he proposes to send to England will not be received there. Her Majesty can only communicate with him through the Governor of the Gold Coast, who is the Queen's representative, to whom the King of Kumasi should at once reply to the message sent to him in the letter delivered by Mr. Vroom to the King. In no case would her Majesty receive a mission from a ruler who is accused on apparently good grounds of allowing human sacrifices."

This is the Queen's message to the King of Kumasi, and therefore it will now be useless for you to go to England, as Her Majesty will not receive you.

Do you wish to say anything now, Mr. Ansah? You are stated to be the head of this proposed Embassy.

Mr. Ansah.—I am just consulting with them if they have anything to say.

The Governor.—When would you like to see me again?

Linguist.—We have heard the message just delivered and we will retire, and any day your Excellency will fix for us to meet with you we shall then say what we have got to say to your Excellency.

The Governor.—Very well. I will meet you again on Saturday next, the 15th, at three o'clock.

Linguist.—We thank your Excellency.

The Governor then rose and retired, thus closing the interview.

Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

SPECIAL MESSENGERS from the KING OF KUMASI to the GOVERNOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, December 15, 1894.

IN compliance with your Excellency's request on the 13th instant that we should reply to your Excellency's address given at the interview held on that day at the Castle, we now beg to make the following remarks:

1. We thank your Excellency for having read and explained to us the communication addressed to your Excellency by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and that we cannot help but state that we have been pained that your Excellency should have taken the opportunity of making the remarks above referred to, as Ambassadors from his Majesty. King of Ashanti, if we rightly understood your Excellency having acknowledged us as such ("that your Excellency does not recognise our King "as the King of Ashanti, but that of Kumasi, and that the head of the Embassy and "his brother were dismissed from the public service and the evils that have arisen "have been caused by him)."

2. We are inclined to suppose that the remarks made by your Excellency have been the result of the misrepresentations with a view to cause some unpleasant feelings in the mind of your Excellency against our King: for we noticed the spirit and passion with which your Excellency addressed us.

3. As Ambassadors we have simply been commissioned to visit England, and the above instructions we intend carrying out although, if we rightly remember, your Excellency has informed us that that liberty and courtesy that are always accorded to British subjects will be denied us.

Enclosure 3 in No. 4.

Mr. JOHN OSSOO ANSAH to the GOVERNOR.

Ashanti Embassy, Freemason's Hall, Cape Coast Castle,

YOUR EXCELLENCY, December 17, 1894.

THE Secretary of the Embassy having been refused admittance to the Castle on the occasion when the interviews were held with your Excellency on the 12th, 13th,

and 15th instant, we shall be thankful if your Excellency can kindly cause to be furnished us a copy of the minutes then taken at your Excellency's command.

We have, &c.

JOHN OSSOO ANSAH, of Ashanti.
For self and other members of the Embassy.
J. G. HALM,
Secretary, Embassy.

To his Excellency
Sir Brandford Griffith, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.,
The Castle, Cape Coast Castle.

Enclosure 4 in No. 4.

The PRIVATE SECRETARY to Mr. ANSAH.

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,
December 21, 1894.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 17th instant, and to state that Mr. Vroom was instructed to admit you and your three associates from Ashanti, with any sixteen persons you might collectively choose, to be present at the interviews his Excellency granted to the messengers from the King of Kumasi last week.

2. The Governor is not aware that any person styling himself "Secretary to the Embassy" was refused admittance to any of these interviews; but that, if you meant to convey that the "Secretary" was a person named Joseph Gattin Halm, who has signed the paper under notice as "Sec^{y}. Embassy," the Governor considers it is very proper that he was excluded, and if he applied for admission and was refused, although the Governor is not aware of the fact, yet his Excellency would most distinctly have directed that he should not be admitted, inasmuch as he was convicted of serious and most disgraceful crime at Cape Coast in 1886, and sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for eighteen months in one of the gaols of this Colony.

3. With regard to the application for a copy of the minutes of the proceedings at the interviews which his Excellency had with the messengers from the King of Kumasi, I am to inform you that the notes of such interviews were taken only for the convenience of the Governor's Office, and the information of the Most Honourable Secretary of State for the Colonies, and therefore the application for a copy of them cannot be complied with.

I have, &c.
JOHN HALL,
Private Secretary.

Mr. John Ossoo Ansah,
Cape Coast.

Enclosure 5 in No. 4.

To MR. JOHN OSSOO ANSAH, CHIEF BUATIN, KWAKU FREKU, MR. A. A. ANSAH, and others composing the party of Special Messengers from the KING OF KUMASI.

I HEREBY give you notice that I have to-day received instructions from the Government of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, to forbid your going on to England, and I forbid you accordingly.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor of the Gold Coast Colony.

Cape Coast Castle,
21st December 1894.

Enclosure 6 in No. 4.

MEMORANDUM.

We, the undersigned officers of the Gold Coast Colony, viz.:—

DONALD STEWART, Captain and Travelling Commissioner,
HENDRIK VROOM, District Commissioner, and
M. W. STUART, Acting Chief Commissioner of Police,

at present at Cape Coast Castle, by the direction of his Excellency the Governor, Sir Brandford Griffith, K.C.M.G., went at 11 o'clock a.m. to-day, the 22nd instant, to the place of abode of Mr. John Ossoo Ansah, the head of the special messengers sent to Cape Coast by the King of Kumasi, and found with him Chief Buatin, Linguist

Kwaku Freku, Mr. A. A. O. Ansah, and other persons of their party. We then stated to Mr. John Ossoo Ansah that on the day before the Governor had sent by his principal clerk, Mr. J. S. Hagan, a letter addressed to Mr. Ansah and the other special messengers from the King of Kumasi, whereupon Mr. Ansah refused to receive the letter because he was not styled "Prince" on the addressed envelope. Upon this reply being delivered to the Governor, his Excellency sent Mr. Hagan back to inform Mr. Ansah that the paper sent to him and his associates contained a direction to the messengers from Her Majesty's Government which his Excellency was instructed to deliver to them; that Mr. Ansah then stated to Mr. Hagan that he declined to receive the communication unless the words "King of Ashanti" were substituted for the words "King of Kumasi" on the addressed envelope. That this morning, the 22nd instant, the Governor had sent Mr. Vroom to request the special messengers to attend at the Castle, when the Linguist, Chief Kwaku Freku, stated :—

"We are grieved because his Excellency refuses to acknowledge the King" (Prempé) "King of Ashanti and ourselves as Ashanti Ambassadors. At the last meeting his "Excellency stated he would not see us again; now if his Excellency would send for "us as Ambassadors from Ashanti we will come and not otherwise."

We thereupon stated to Mr. Ansah and his companions that it was not his Excellency's intention to see them again; that in requesting them to attend at the Castle the Governor did not intend to see them himself, but to speak to them through his officers then present; and if they still refused to receive the communication addressed to them, his officers were to open the envelope and read to them the order Her Majesty's Government had instructed him to give to them. And the Governor directed his messengers to state that, as regarded Prempé not being addressed as King of Ashanti, the Government would not recognise him as King of Ashanti until he had fulfilled the requirements of Her Majesty's Government as stated in a letter sent to him by Mr. Hodgson in February. We then asked whether they would take, or still refuse to receive, the paper addressed to them.

After some hesitation they took the communication referred to, stating that they did so under protest.

D. Stewart, Captain.
H. Vroom.
M. Wemyss Stuart.

Cape Coast Castle,
22nd December 1894.

I hereby declare that that portion of the foregoing memorandum which relates to my action in the matter referred to is a true account of what passed between Mr. Ansah and myself on the two occasions on which I was sent by his Excellency the Governor to deliver the letter.

J. Sampson Hagan,
Principal Clerk.

Cape Coast Castle,
22nd December 1894.

Enclosure 7 in No. 4.

The Governor to Captain Stewart and Mr. Vroom.

(Extract.)

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,
December 22, 1894.

In accordance with instructions which I have had the honour to receive from Her Majesty's Government, I have to request that, after having completed all necessary preparations, you will start from Elmina early on Monday morning, the 24th instant, and proceed with the least possible delay to Kumasi, where, after arrival in due season, and carefully observing all proper native etiquette—with which Mr. Vroom is fully acquainted—you will present yourselves to King Kwaku Dua and state to him as follows (great care being taken by Mr. Vroom in interpreting the message so that it cannot possibly be misunderstood, and towards this end he should read it over carefully beforehand so as to master it thoroughly with a view to its easy and fluent interpretation) :—

"Some time ago the Governor was informed in a letter addressed to his Excellency by Mr. A. A. Ossoo Ansah that you had instructed him to join a selected number of 'important Chiefs with his brother John Ansah at the head to' (go) 'to Her Britannic

Majesty, and that you were desirous that the parties referred to, whom Mr. A. A. Ossoo Ansah described as special Ambassadors, should 'have an interview with his Excellency before their departure for England.'"

"The Governor, having communicated this announcement to Her Majesty's Government, was directed by a telegraphic message to state to you as follows:

"Inform the King of Kumasi that the special Embassy he proposes to send to England will not be received there. Her Majesty can only communicate with him through the Governor of the Gold Coast, who is the Queen's representative, to whom the King of Kumasi should at once reply to the message sent to him in the letter delivered by Mr. Vroom to the King. In no case would Her Majesty receive a mission from a Ruler who is accused on apparently good grounds of allowing human sacrifices."

"This message was received some days before the special messengers came to Cape Coast, and as it could not have been delivered to you before they arrived, the Governor, in the exercise of his discretion, determined to communicate it to your special messengers in order that they should inform you of it."

"When these messengers were received by his Excellency at Cape Coast, on the 12th of December, the Linguist Kwake Freku simply expressed your thanks and those of other persons to the Governor, and stated that you had entrusted all matters connected with yourself to Mr. Ansah, and that you sent them to accompany him to the Governor so that they might see him to go to Her Majesty the Queen. Upon the Governor's inquiring whether that was the whole message they had to deliver to him, the Linguist stated it was. His Excellency then asked where the answer was to the letter written to you by the command of the Queen, adding that it was seven months since you had written stating that you would send an answer. To this your Linguist stated: "The "reply to the letter is what the King of Ashanti has sent us to communicate to the "Queen." It was upon this statement being made that the Governor delivered to the special messengers the message from Her Majesty which we have already stated to you."

"We have now to inform you that his Excellency, having communicated by telegram to Her Majesty's Government the foregoing statement made by your Linguist to him, received three days before we left the Coast a telegram from Her Majesty's Government in which he was instructed as follows:—

"Messengers cannot be received. You should, therefore, forbid their going on to England," and the Governor solemnly forbade them accordingly in a written message which we delivered to them. His Excellency was further directed to send two of the officers of this Government to Kumasi to explain to you that your messengers have been stopped; and to call upon you for a definite answer to the letter addressed to you by the Acting Governor of the Gold Coast Colony on the 23rd of February last. With regard to what is stated in that letter, the Governor has been directed by Her Majesty's Government to inform you that your independence will not be interfered with further than is involved in the conditions laid down in that letter. On the other hand, the Governor is directed to state to you that if you reject those terms, equally favourable ones may not be offered again."

"The Governor has also instructed us to convey to you the following message which he received from Her Majesty's Government some time ago and was waiting for an opportunity to have delivered to you:—

"'Warn the King of Kumasi that he must not interfere with any of the Kings who have entered into treaties with the Gold Coast Government.'"

Having delivered your message you will state to the King that the Governor has instructed you to request him to give you a definite reply to it with the least possible delay.

If he should refer you to what he has directed his messengers to state—viz., that he was sending his answer to the letter by them to Her Majesty the Queen—then you must tell him this cannot be accepted as a reply to the letter of the 23rd of February, and you must state this in polite but firm and decided terms (and Mr. Vroom must be particular in this regard), and you will point out to him, as already set forth, that Her Majesty can only communicate with him through the Governor of the Gold Coast, who is the Queen's representative, to whom he should at once reply to the message sent to him in the letter conveyed by Mr. Vroom.

If you find the King decided not to attend to the application you have made to him, and that it will be useless to wait at Kumasi, tell him plainly that your instructions are only to stay for a week so as to afford him time to give you his definite reply, and warn him that it is a serious palaver. If he hesitates, or shows a disposition to

vacillation in the matter, which he may do, not having Mr. Ansah to advise him, or if he should request you to wait a little longer for the purpose of enabling him to communicate with Mr. Ansah, or to assemble his Chiefs and Councillors, and if in your united judgment you should be of opinion that a longer stay, for ten days or a fortnight, would cause your mission to be a success, then you will be at liberty to remain; nor will I fetter your discretion even by such limits should you consider that by remaining at Kumasi a little longer you will accomplish the object which is taking you there, an object which Her Majesty's Government is very desirous to effect. In such case you can wait a reasonable time. But if, when you have delivered your message to the King, he informs you that he declines to give any other reply than that which his messengers have been charged with to Her Majesty the Queen, or refuses to listen to you, or does any act, or makes any statement, whereby, in your clear and united judgment, you are satisfied that the King will not accept the proposals of Her Majesty's Government as explained in the letter addressed to him on the 23rd of February, then, in any such event, you will, after the due performance of native etiquette as regards taking official leave of the King, quit Kumasi, and return with all convenient speed to the Coast, proceeding immediately afterwards by steamer to Accra to make the report on your mission to me.

There may be matters or obstacles cropping up in your performance of the duty entrusted to you which, as I cannot foresee them, I am unable to instruct you about. In any such case, you must act as at the time, in your judgment, may appear to be best.

I now leave the subject matter of this letter in your care, confident from what I know of you both, that you will be most careful with regard to all points in relation to the mission entrusted to you, and will do all in your power to make it a success. In Mr. Ansah's absence from Kumasi, Mr. Vroom's thorough acquaintance with the Ashanti language and his knowledge of the customs and habits of the Ashantis, combined with his insight, tact, and judgment, may enable you to induce the King of Kumasi to comply with the wishes of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 5.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received January 26, 1895.)

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,
December 31, 1894.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter received this morning from the messengers of the King of Kumasi, together with a transcript of my reply to their communication.

I have, &c.
W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

The MESSENGERS FROM KUMASI to the GOVERNOR.

Ashanti Embassy, Freemason's Hall, Cape Coast Castle,
December 29, 1894.

SIR,

ON hearing your Excellency is about to return to Accra, we feel it our duty to express to you our regret that the messenger agreed upon at our last interview with your Excellency on the 15th instant to be sent to His Majesty the King of Ashanti has not yet returned.

2. We do not know of any cause of his delay, except indeed the rumour that an expedition from Her Britannic Majesty's Government on this coast is on its way there, a circumstance we cannot believe after the interview above referred to.

3. We beg to take this opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 21st instant in which your Excellency forbids our going on to England in the name of Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

4. We do not know whether Her Majesty's Government has ever exercised the right of forbidding visitors from any part of the world into their country, or

whether the Government has acquired any special rights of this nature over the Kingdom of His Majesty our King; but, as an Embassy, we believe your Excellency will see with us that we have no alternative but to obey the commands of our King.

We have, &c.

JOHN OSSOO ANSAH, of Ashanti, Head of Embassy.
ALBERT OSSOO ANSAH, P., Ambassador.

	Their	
BUATIN	×	Chief.
KWAKU FOKOU	×	
INKRUMAH	×	
BONNAR	×	
ACKAMPON DABBAN	×	Attached to the Embassy.
KOJO TUFUOR	×	

marks.

Witness to marks:

J. GATTIN HALM,
Secretary Embassy.

Enclosure 2 in No. 5.

The GOVERNOR to the MESSENGERS FROM KUMASI.

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,
December 31, 1894.

SIRS,

I AM directed by his Excellency the Governor to acknowledge the receipt this morning of your communication dated the 29th December.

I am, &c.
J. HALL,
Private Secretary.

Mr. John Ossoo Ansah, and the other Messengers from the King of Kumasi, and Mr. Albert Ossoo Ansah.

No. 6.

LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received January 28, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 9.]

(EXTRACT.)

Botolph House, Eastcheap, London, E.C.,
January 26, 1895.

ADVERTING to the recent correspondence which has been addressed by this Chamber to you, on behalf of its West African Trade Section, in reference to the serious obstacles created by the Ashantee and other tribes to the continuance and development of trade of British merchants in that region, I am directed to acquaint you that this subject has again been under the consideration of our West African Trade Section, with the result that I am to urge upon your Lordship the immediate necessity of some effective steps being taken by the Colonial Government to secure freedom of access by the natives of the interior. The necessity for some immediate and, at the same time, effective action is emphasised by the fact that our West African Trade Section has had before it, in again considering this matter, a copy of a Memorial which has recently been forwarded to his Excellency Sir Brandford Griffith, calling his attention to the deplorable state of trade in the Colony, and which is attributable to the obstacles created by these tribes. It is believed that there would be really no great difficulty experienced in accomplishing the objects referred to by the Memorialists by perfectly peaceful means, and without any show of resistance on the part of the Ashantees and other tribes, if the necessary firmness were shown. I am at the same time to urge upon the attention of your Lordship the immediate construction of such railways as are necessary for administrative control and the development of trade.

The Colony, as is well known, is also rich in mineral resources, and railway communication would most assuredly do more than anything else to further their development.

No. 7.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received February 2, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

[*Answered by No.* 8.]

Special mission returned to Cape Coast Castle 30th January, having remained at Kumasi for three weeks. Object of special mission to Kumasi has failed. It was detained for days under false pretences by King, who, after he had repeatedly promised that everything should be satisfactorily settled, finally answered that his special messengers at Cape Coast Castle are in possession of reply to letter 23rd February, conveyed to King by Vroom, which will be delivered to Queen of England, in England. Stewart and Vroom expected to arrive at headquarters 5th February. I will, immediately after communicating with them in relation to their special mission, communicate all information concerning same to you, and submit to consideration of your Lordship views of this Government as to best policy to be adopted by the Imperial Government, under all the circumstances of the case, with regard to Kumasi.

No. 8.

The MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR W. B. GRIFFITH.
(Sent February 5, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Referring to your telegram of February 2,* inform messengers that if they come to England after they have been forbidden to do so, they will not be allowed to see Her Majesty the Queen.

No. 9.

COLONIAL OFFICE to LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR, Downing Street, February 6, 1895.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th of January,† urging on his Lordship the serious obstacles to trade on the Gold Coast caused by the Ashanti and other tribes, and the necessity for the construction of railways, and to request that you will inform the London Chamber of Commerce that these matters are engaging the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
R. H. MEADE.

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* No. 7.

† No. 6.

No. 10.

MR. BREW to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received February 11, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 15.]

3 & 4, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.,
February 9, 1895.

MY LORD,

I TRUST it will not be regarded as presumptuous on my part in addressing you on the subject matter of this letter, the Ashanti question.

Within the past few weeks I have had communications from the Princes at the head of the Ashanti Embassy now at Cape Coast (to whom I am related) relative to their coming to England on a mission to Her Majesty's Government from His Majesty Prempeh, King of Ashanti.

With the correspondence was forwarded to me a copy of a note addressed to the members of the Embassy by his Excellency Sir W. B. Griffith, Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, in which he states that Her Majesty's Government had instructed him to forbid them to come to England, and he accordingly did so forbid them.

The object of the Embassy being entirely of a pacific nature, this intimation from the Governor has taken the Embassy by surprise, and I have been solicited to ascertain from your Lordship whether they are to be restrained by force or otherwise by the Gold Coast Government from proceeding to this country, and to convey to them at as early a date as possible the decision of Her Majesty's Government, as it is their intention at present to leave for England early in March.

In connexion with this, the Embassy is also desirous of learning whether they would be received by Her Majesty's Government on their arrival here; if not, whether there is anything to prevent them from coming here in private, *i.e.* unofficial, capacity.

As a Chief of the Gold Coast, and as one deeply interested in its future and that of Ashanti, I beg most humbly to suggest that it would be advisable to permit the Embassy to proceed hither on its mission. There are many reasons for this course being advisable and the best to be adopted, one of which alone ought to carry weight, namely, that this is the first mission of its kind from Ashanti, and the object-lesson the Embassy would learn of the might, power, and vast resources of this great Empire would certainly have a tendency to avert collision and unnecessary bloodshed.

I have addressed your Lordship as being the direct head of Her Majesty's Colonial Department, although it may have been a more correct course to have addressed the Foreign Office on the subject.

If it is not asking too much, I should feel honoured if your Lordship would grant me an interview for the purpose of laying before you other reasons for the adoption of the course which I have suggested.

I have, &c.
BREW OF DUNQUAH,
Prince-Chief of Abakrampan
and Dunquah, Gold Coast.

No. 11.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received 11th February 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Referring to my telegram of 2nd February,* Special Mission to Kumasi arrived at Accra 5th February. Special Mission appears to have been deliberately kept back from returning to station by King of Kumasi under false pretences, [and] promises that if they would wait for four weeks, for three weeks, for two weeks, for one week, at the last extremity being content with five days, Special Mission should be able to take back a satisfactory answer to me. Special Mission waited till 21st January, when they were informed as stated in my telegram of 2nd February.* Special Mission inquired whether that was the answer to message. Linguists answered that, "That is all we have for the Governor of Gold Coast." When informed that that was no answer to letter sent

* No. 7.

by Vroom, linguists answered that "This is the King's final reply." Special Mission considered it desirable to take leave of King; but his linguists first stated that he was too tired to see Special Mission that day, but would do so on following morning, when linguists stated that he was too sleepy to receive them; so they left.

Up to 19th January Chiefs were undecided what reply to send, when they received news brought by messenger from Cape Coast Castle. It was evident that this changed reply it was intended to send at first.

King of Bekwai was not present at Kumasi, but sent linguist. Special Mission states that sacrifices continue; twenty people were killed at Kumasi early in the month of December, owing to death of relation of King; on the occasion of death of Chief's brother many people were killed at Kumasi recently.

Regret to report that one of Hausas on escort duty was intentionally shot at Fumusa, Adansi, by an Ashanti. Two of them hiding in bush appear to have been waiting for an opportune moment to carry into effect their purpose. Special Mission express opinion that murderer had no intention to kill [?] Hausa, but that his intention was to murder members of Special Mission, Vroom particularly, and that he received instructions to do so from Kumasi; but of course this is only matter of opinion. One man has been arrested on suspicion of having murdered the Hausa, but it will be difficult to obtain necessary evidence for his conviction.

With regard to the Constabulary on escort duty, Special Mission state that no men could have behaved better.

Special Mission express opinion that they were treated with contempt and insolence by King of Kumasi. The King of Kumasi has by his conduct set Her Majesty's Government at defiance, and it appears to me that there is no prospect of enforcing their commands except under compulsion. It appears to me that there is no way of getting affairs settled otherwise. Stewart states that 1,000 men would be sufficient to carry out named service.

No. 12.

Sir W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received 12th February 1895.)

(Extract.) Telegraphic.

I beg earnestly that I may not incur your Lordship's displeasure at my strongly recommending for favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government the adoption of an advanced line of policy with regard to Ashanti by promptly dealing crushing blow to that country, and thereby bringing it under complete control of Great Britain, during the present dry season, which will, according to statistical returns, continue till about the middle of April. If immediate action should be taken it would in a few weeks settle the business; besides, in my opinion, Ashantis do not believe that steps will be taken hostile to them by Her Majesty's Government, as I am informed that they are being encouraged in this belief by educated natives living at Cape Coast Castle and elsewhere, possessing great influence over movements of King of Kumasi. It is doubtful whether Ashantis would offer determined opposition to expeditionary force, but it is a matter of greatest importance to Gold Coast that this important business should be dealt with without avoidable delay, otherwise it will be much more difficult to deal with later on. In such case Colony would be involved in considerable increased expenditure, placing finances of Colony in critical state, while largely increased military arrangements would be required greatly in excess of what would suffice at present. Irrespective of this, we would lose prestige with the inhabitants of this country, and would be injuriously affected thereby. It appears to me that time presses for energetic action with regard to Ashanti, and I, therefore, with the unanimous and firm support of the Executive Council, strongly recommend for favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government the adoption of that line of policy towards this country.

No. 13.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received February 12, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

[*Answered by No.* 16.]

Referring to my telegrams of yesterday and to-day,* on 6th February communicated to special messengers from Kumasi at Cape Coast Castle, by letter registered, your Lordship's telegram of 5th February.† By to-day's post I have received following registered letter sent by them to me, dated 11th February :—

Letter begins : In acknowledging receipt of your communication dated 6th February, we have the honour to inform you that we refuse to be dictated to by any other than our own Government, and must assure you that nothing would deter us from proceeding to England to lay our mission before the authorities on the spot. We must inform you, further, that we will refuse to receive any communication from you if addressed us as you did, to wit, "Mr. John Ossoo Ansah and the other persons sent by the King of Kumasi as special messengers to Cape Coast Castle," for we have already protested that we are no messengers as you described us to be, and you will please note that any communication addressed us in the manner we take objection [to] will be at once returned unopened. We have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servants, John Ossoo Ansah of Ashanti, Head of Embassy, for self and other members of the Ashanti Embassy.—*Letter ends.*

The line adopted by these people of Kumasi appears to be the beginning of conduct which is calculated to entail serious consequences if not dealt with resolutely and promptly.

No. 14.

MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received February 16, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 17.]

Chamber of Commerce, Manchester,
February 15, 1895.

MY LORD,

I AM instructed by the Board of Directors of this Chamber to address you upon the state of trade on the Gold Coast, as affected by the want of order in the interior, and particularly in Ashantee.

The Board has had under consideration a copy of a memorial of the Cape Coast Chamber of Commerce to the Governor of the Colony expressing the belief of the memorialists that the stagnation of trade there is attributable to intertribal quarrels, and interferences and aggressions between the tribes and their "European" neighbours. The memorial prays (1) that the Kingdom of Ashantee may be definitely brought within the sphere of British influence ; (2) that a permanent Resident, of diplomatic and military training, may be stationed at Coomassie, reserving to the King all existing rights and powers in respect of his own people ; (3) that the Resident shall put down all barbarous practices and customs, and protect all traders passing through Ashantee to or from the coast ; and (4) that a system of passport may be established giving traders a right of appeal for protection and assistance to the District Commissioners.

The memorial has been submitted to the African Sectional Committee of the Chamber, some of the members of which have been residents of West Africa and are interested in trade with the Gold Coast, and a report thereupon has been presented to the Board.

I am directed to state that, whilst neither the Committee nor the Board is competent to form a conclusive opinion as to the wisdom and the necessity of all measures suggested by the Cape Coast Chamber of Commerce, they are much impressed by the evident difficulties of carrying on trade with the interior owing to the insecurity existing over a wide tract of country, as well as to the lack of proper means of communication.

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* Nos. 11 and 12. † No. 8.

I am, therefore, to express to you the earnest hope of the Board that the Governor may be instructed to take such steps as in your Lordship's judgment may be expedient, with a view to the early removal of the difficulties complained of.

I have, &c.
ELIJAH HELM,
Secretary.

No. 15.

COLONIAL OFFICE to MR. BREW.

SIR, Downing Street, February 15, 1895.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 9th instant,* on the subject of the proposed visit to England of certain messengers from the King of Kumasi, and in reply I am to refer you to the answer which was given last night in the House of Commons by the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies to a question respecting these messengers.

Lord Ripon desires me to add that he is unable to grant you an interview on the subject.

I am, &c.
R. P. EBDEN,
for Under Secretary of State.

No. 16.

The MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR W. B. GRIFFITH.
(Sent February 15, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

In reply to your telegram of February 12,† inform special messengers Her Majesty's Government do not recognise them as ambassadors or anything more than special messengers, and approve of your having so addressed them. If they come to England they will not be received or recognised in any way by Her Majesty the Queen or Her Majesty's Government. Communicate copy of this telegram to special messengers.

No. 17.

COLONIAL OFFICE to MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR, Downing Street, February 18, 1895.

IN reply to your letter of 15th instant,‡ respecting the injury done to trade at the Gold Coast by the want of order in the interior, and particularly in Ashanti, I am directed by the Marquess of Ripon to request you to inform your Chamber that these matters are engaging the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I am to add that Lord Ripon has not received from the Governor the memorial of the Cape Coast Chamber of Commerce referred to in your letter.

I am, &c.
R. P. EBDEN.

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* No. 10. † No. 13.

‡ No. 14.

No. 18.

LIVERPOOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received February 21, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 21.]

The African Trade Section of
The Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool,
Liverpool, February 20, 1895.

AFFAIRS of the GOLD COAST, the HINTERLANDS, ASHANTI, and SEFWI COUNTRIES.

MY LORD,

I AM directed by the committee of the African Trade Section of this Chamber to respectfully draw your attention to enclosed copy of letter on the above-named subject despatched this day to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
THOMAS H. BARKER,
Secretary.

Enclosure in No. 18.

The African Trade Section of
The Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool,
Liverpool, February 20, 1895.

AFFAIRS of the GOLD COAST, the HINTERLANDS, ASHANTI, and SEFWI COUNTRIES.

MY LORD,

THE Cape Coast Chamber of Commerce has sent to this Chamber a copy of a Memorial addressed by them to the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, which I have the honour to enclose for your Lordship's perusal.

I am to say that the Memorial has been carefully considered by the Committee of the African Trade Section of this Chamber, and that they very respectfully desire to repeat the complaints, made on previous occasions to your Department, as to the injury done to the trade of the Gold Coast by the dissensions amongst the tribes inhabiting the British sphere of influence adjacent to the Colony and including the Ashanti and Sefwi countries.

I am to express the regret of the Committee at the delay which has occurred in placing a British Commissioner at Coomassie. Further, the progress of the French troops in the direction of Kong has tended to unsettle the districts to the west of Coomassie, and appears to the Committee to justify the suggestion made at the close of the Memorial that a Commissioner should also be sent to Asafou.

I am, therefore, to ask that your Lordship will take both of these requests into your immediate consideration, and that you will send Residents to both Coomassie and Asafou. The suggestions made in clauses 4 to 8 of the Memorial I am to commend to your Lordship's serious attention.

I have, &c.
THOMAS H. BARKER,
Secretary.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Copy of Memorial.

Sir WILLIAM BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Gold Coast Colony, West Africa.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

THE Cape Coast Chamber of Commerce humbly desire to lay before you the following petition, in the fervent hope that, so far as is practicable, some relief may be found from the present stagnation of trade in this district.

1. Without assuming any knowledge of the condition of the interior districts which we do not possess, we are strongly impressed with a belief that traders from the surrounding districts are restricted in their peaceful occupations by a general lack of security, due to the unsettled state of the various countries, in consequence not only of intertribal animosities but also of interferences and aggressions between these tribes and our European neighbours.

2. Your petitioners pray that in reference to the kingdom of Ashanti, it may be definitely brought within the sphere of British influence.

3. That your Excellency may deem it advisable to place its administration upon a footing that should embrace some form of permanent residency under an experienced officer of a diplomatic and military training.

4. That the King of Ashanti be allowed to reserve all the rights and powers that he now exercises over his people.

5. That the Resident shall act as an adviser and chancellor to the King, and at the same time put down and do away with all barbarous practices and customs.

6. That the Resident be the means of protecting all traders passing through to the sea coast.

7. That a passport be given by the Resident to each trader for the number of carriers with him, guaranteeing protection against desertion and decoying away of those carriers on reaching the coast.

8. That this passport be sufficient for the trader to appeal to the district commissioners in case of need, and that the carriers be compelled to return with their master.

9. That your petitioners also desire to lay before your Excellency for consideration the disturbed state of Sefwi country. Owing to recent fighting in the French territory beyond Allepe, Her Majesty's subjects living there are afraid to leave home, lest they may be attacked and imprisoned by that Power. As a means of reassuring them in the continuance of their peaceful communications with the coast, for trading purposes, we ask that your Excellency may send up a Commissioner to reside in the town of Wiosu or Asafou.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

No. 19.

Sir W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received February 22, 1895.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
21st January, 1895.

My Lord,

In continuation of my Despatch of the 26th December,* I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of "Notes of an interview held at Government House, Cape Coast Castle, on the 15th of December, 1894, with messengers from the King of Kumasi calling themselves the Ashanti Embassy." I regret the late date at which these are forwarded, but the shorthand writer who took the notes was busily engaged with type-writing during the remainder of December, and after my return here on 1st January was incapacitated by illness from work for several days, to which, in some measure, the delay in sending them on has occurred.

I have, &c.
W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 19.

Notes of an Interview held at Government House, Cape Coast Castle, on Thursday, the 15th December 1894, at 3 o'clock p.m., with messengers from the King of Kumasi calling themselves the Ashanti Embassy.

Present:—

His Excellency the Governor, Sir W. Brandford Griffith, K.C.M.G.
His Honour the Chief Justice, J. T. Hutchinson, Esq.
The Acting Inspector-General, Cap. J. G. O. Aplin.
L. N. Peregrine, Esq., District Commissioner, Cape Coast.
Inspector S. F. O'Donnel.
Assistant Inspector Middlemist.
Assistant Inspector E. C. Cooper.
Lieutenant Annesley, Adjutant of the Volunteers.
J. Hall, Esq., Private Secretary.
H. M. Hull, Esq., Travelling Commr.
D. Stewart, Esq., Travelling Commr.
Dr. D. Waldron, Assistant Colonial Surgeon.
Dr. D. M. Forde, Assistant Colonial Surgeon.
P. A. Adolphus, Esq., Supervisor of Customs.
G. Cropper, Esq., Supervisor of Customs.
Captain A. H. Inglefield, Senior Surveyor of Roads.
Edward Rice, Esq., Foreman of Works.

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* No 4.

Merchants.

James Gow, Esq.
Frank Russell, Esq.
E. E. Hochstetter, Esq.
J. M. Sarbah, Esq.

G. E. Eminsang, Esq.
Frank Essien, Esq.
B. J. Kwofi, Esq.
Chief Andoh of Elmina.
Messengers from the King of Kumasi.

H. Vroom, Esq., District Commissioner, and Rev. Jacob B. Anaman, interpreted.

Usual compliments exchanged.

The Governor.—I am ready to hear what you have to say with regard to the message I delivered to you for the King from Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress.

Mr. John Ossoo Ansah read the following as a reply to the Queen's message :—

" Your Excellency,

" In compliance with your Excellency's request on the 13th instant that we should reply to your Excellency's address given at the interview held on that day at the Castle, we now beg to make the following remarks :—

1. We thank your Excellency for having read and explained to us the communication addressed to your Excellency by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and that we cannot help but state that we have been pained that your Excellency should have taken the opportunity of making the remarks referred to as Ambassadors from His Majesty the King of Ashanti, if we rightly understand your Excellency having acknowledged us as such ; that your Excellency does not recognise our King as the King of Ashanti but that of Kumasi, and that the head of the Embassy (that is, myself) and my brother were dismissed from the public service, and the evils that have arisen have been caused by me.

2. We are inclined to suppose that the remarks made by your Excellency have been the result of misrepresentation with a view to cause some unpleasant feelings in the mind of your Excellency against our King, for we noticed the spirit and passion with which your Excellency addressed us.

3. As Ambassadors we have simply been commissioned to visit England and the above instructions we intend carrying out, although, if we rightly remember, your Excellency has informed us that that liberty and courtesy that are always accorded to British subjects will be denied us."

Governor.—Give me that paper. The Governor, handing the paper to Mr. Anaman, said : Will you read and interpret that, Mr. Anaman ?

After the paper had been read and interpreted, Mr. Albert Arthur Ossoo Ansah, having asked and obtained the Governor's permission, read a paper explaining the circumstances under which he and his brother left the public service ; after which the Governor said, I have to repeat what I said at the previous interview, that, according " to the records of the public service, the young man was dismissed from the service of " the Government. The papers are there."

The Governor to the Kumasi Messengers.—" When I saw you a few days ago, I read " a message which had been transmitted to me by the most Honourable the Secretary of " State for the Colonies, and I will repeat the message again ; and I shall feel obliged " if you (addressing Mr. Anaman) will interpret it ; and if there are any native gentle- " men here who object to the interpretation I shall be glad if they will say so." (The Governor rose and all present also rose.)

" Inform the King of Kumasi that the special embassy he proposes to send to England " will not be received there. Her Majesty can only communicate with him through the " Governor of the Gold Coast, who is the Queen's representative, to whom the King of " Kumasi should at once reply to the message sent to him in the letter delivered by " Mr. Vroom to the King. In no case would Her Majesty receive a mission from a " ruler who is accused on apparently good grounds of allowing human sacrifices."

This is Her Majesty's message which I am commanded to convey to the King of Kumasi. Have you sent to tell the King anything of this message ?

Linguist.—No, your Excellency.

Governor.—I wish those gentlemen who have listened to Mr. Anaman, to say whether the interpretation is a correct one. (No dissent.)

Governor to Mr. Anaman.—I wish you to say to the Linguist that I ask him if he understands the meaning of this message and fully takes in its import.

Linguist.—Yes, your Excellency.

Governor.—I put the same question to you, Chief Buatin.

Buatin.—Yes, your Excellency.

The Governor.—Do you think if the King knew the purport of this message he would allow you to go to England?

Buatin.—Yes, your Excellency. Because the accusations cannot be proved. With your Excellency's permission I will speak.

The Governor.—No, no. We do not want that. I simply ask if you think that if the King knew of this message he would persist in sending you to England.

Buatin.—The King would persist in sending us to England because those things that are represented against the King are unfounded.

The Governor.—Very well.

Buatin.—We have enemies who misrepresent things to your Excellency with regard to the King.

The Governor.—I think the King has had enemies very much nearer to him in Kumasi than any persons who have informed the Government of his conduct. Now, there is an objection that I have declined to speak of the King as King of Ashanti, and that I have called him King of Kumasi. Well, now, I do not acknowledge Prempeh, whom I was the cause of putting on that Stool, I regret to say—considering his conduct—I do not acknowledge him to be King of Ashanti, because before he can sit upon the Stool of Ashanti, he must have Asibi of the Kokofus and Sekyire of the Mampons at Kumasi to put him on the Stool. He cannot be lawfully placed on the Stool otherwise, Asibi has said that himself. I have got it in black and white, and he states that the puppets who have been put up to represent Kokofu and Mampon are people who will be removed the moment the real and lawful Kings of those countries make their appearance at Kumasi. Therefore, I do not acknowledge Prempeh to be King of Ashanti. And, moreover, his messengers sent here have not been attended by any linguist or persons from the King of Bekwai, the King of Juabin, and other principal Kings; and I take it that that means that they are not going with him in the line of conduct he is pursuing. Remember I am speaking seriously. Now with regard to this remark: "We are inclined to suppose that the remarks made by your Excellency have "been the result of misrepresentation with a view to cause some unpleasant feelings in "the mind of your Excellency against our King, for we noticed the spirit and passion "with which your Excellency addressed us;" let me tell you that the Governor of a British Colony is placed on such a high pinnacle, and there is such a fierce light beating upon him and exposing his actions and conduct, that these cannot be concealed. He would not be worthy of his position if he was not an upright and honourable man, or if he allowed his mind to be influenced by misrepresentations of people. With regard to the young King, I sent Captain Barnett up to Ashanti in 1888, and I told him whatever candidate the majority of the people decided to take, he was to accept, and to state that the British Government would give its support to that candidate, and in that way this young man Prempeh was put upon the Stool, whereas I have since understood that Archireboanda was the proper and rightful candidate; and I have never regretted anything more than giving my support to Prempeh, because he has allowed himself to be influenced by others, to the great injury of himself and his Kingdom. But, nevertheless, I have always treated him with courtesy and respect in all my correspondence and dealings with him. Now then, Mr. Ansah has been good enough to say, "we noticed the "spirit and passion with which your Excellency addressed us." Now there are several gentlemen present here to-day who were present during that interview, and I now rise (the Governor stood up) and appeal to them one and all to say conscientiously and fearlessly whether they saw any spirit or passion disclosed in the manner in which I spoke to the messengers from the King. If any gentleman thinks that I showed passion and temper I trust he will get up and tell me so. I hope you all hear me and understand. (No one rising.) Now you have had an opportunity of observing that your statement is unsupported by a single person present. This is a serious accusation which you have brought against me, and, by the action of those appealed to, you must feel that it is without foundation. It is very natural that I should speak in a firm and decided tone about the King's conduct and that of Mr. Ansah, but Mr. Ansah does not recognize that.

Mr. Ansah.—I did not write it alone.

Linguist.—All of us joined together and wrote the letter.

The Governor.—Well, he says, or you all say, "As Ambassadors we have simply been "commissioned to visit England, and the above instructions we intend carrying out, "although, if we rightly remember, your Excellency has informed us that that liberty "and courtesy that are always accorded to British subjects will be denied us." Do you understand that?

Linguist.—Yes, your Excellency.

The Governor.—I do not think the messengers can understand this matter. They state that I have informed them that that liberty and courtesy that are always accorded to British subjects will be denied them. Would any British subject fly in the face of such a message as has been delivered to them?—Would any British subject say that he was denied the liberty and courtesy that are always accorded to British subjects when he is informed that Her Majesty the Queen says that she can only communicate with him through the Governor of the Colony? Her Majesty's reason for stating that she will not receive you is fully explained; it is, that Her Majesty can only communicate with the King of Kumasi through the Governor of the Gold Coast, who is the Queen's Representative, to whom the King of Kumasi should at once reply to the message sent to him in the letter delivered by Mr. Vroom to the King. And Her Majesty has given another reason why she will not receive the messengers from the King of Kumasi, viz.: "in no case would Her Majesty receive a mission from a ruler who is accused on apparently "good grounds of allowing human sacrifices." And then you say that, by the instructions which I have received, and which have been communicated to you, the liberty and courtesy that are always accorded to British subjects have been denied you! Well, you say that you are not British subjects. It is doubtful about Mr. John Ansah, and I will take care to ascertain the fact. But as you are not British subjects you have no right to expect to be treated as such. Don't you see why it is Her Majesty will deny you an interview? You have it here. I take it as a piece of the greatest impudence and audacity on your part to presume to make such observations with reference to Her Majesty the great Queen of England and Empress of India, in whose sight you and your King are as nothing.

Messengers.—Far from it, your Excellency.

The Governor.—That won't do. Nobody is going to credit that. Now, Freku and Buatin, I am trying to open your eyes, if you dare to open them. Mr. Ansah has twice, once in 1889, and afterwards on the 5th of April this year, stated to me, not in so many words but virtually in reading between the lines, "I can make Ashanti British "territory. I can make it one with Her Majesty the Queen, if you will bribe me, if "you will make it worth my while, if you will give me sufficient money, I will do it." That is what he meant in his letters. Do you understand it? Now, with regard to the remarks I have made about your going to England. Mr. Ansah is perfectly aware of the rule laid down by the Secretary of State, and that was with regard to the letter that the King of Kumasi sent to the Secretary of State; and by the order of the Secretary of State I wrote to the King as follows:—"That Her Majesty's Government hope that "you will follow the advice given to you by the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony "who is their Representative and knows their wishes." Now I have told you of his two letters that he wrote to me, and I have told you the meaning they convey to my mind, and I pointed out to you the other day that he was member of a force which was operating against Ashanti, and that he got a medal for service in the operation which was conducted by Sir Garnet Wolseley against Kumasi. I called your attention to that, because by that you will be able to value his patriotism, his love to his country—if he is an Ashanti,—and I say there is no more horrible, more appalling, or more dreadful spectacle than that of a child striking at its parent. That is the man who has taken such a passion for Ashanti, such an interest to bring it into the light of civilization. The King of Kumasi wrote to me on the 7th of April that he would shortly get his Chiefs together, and he would send an answer with his final decision to the letter that was sent to him by the Queen's command and conveyed by Mr. Vroom. On the 28th June the King sent another letter in which he stated that he was sending me an answer to the letter containing the final decision of his Chiefs and people. When the Linguist got up to speak the lesson he had been taught, he said: "The King of Ashanti salutes your "Excellency with many many thanks and with a well done. All the people in Ashanti "thank you. The Queen of Ashanti thanks your Excellency. I Kwaku, am the "King's Linguist, Buatin is the King's Head Chief, Nkroma is the King's Captain: "Cane bearers and servants. The King sends us to your Excellency to tell your "Excellency that Mr. Ansah (John Ossoo) is the royal relative of his, all matters "connected with the King of Ashanti have been entrusted to Mr. Ansah and the King "sends us to accompany him to your Excellency so that we may see him to go to Her "Majesty the Queen. His younger brother, Mr. Ansah (Albert A. Ossoo), is to "accompany him to see the Queen. That is our message."

I said: "That is your message. Is that all?"

The Linguist said: "Yes, Sir."

I then asked: "Where is the answer to the letter that was written to the King of "Kumasi by the command of Her Majesty the Queen? It is over seven months since "the King wrote to say that he would send an answer. Mr. Ansah understands it "thoroughly, because he wrote the letter."

The Linguist answered: "That is the reason why the King of Ashanti has sent Mr. Ansah and the other envoys to the Queen."

Now do you see how that affects your King? The King made two promises to write a letter in reply to the communication sent to him by Mr. Hodgson. The King has not kept his word. If a man makes you a promise, you trust that man, especially if he is a man in a high position like your King, and if he does not keep faith with you do you think that is a correct conduct, or that you are likely to trust him again? Instead of giving me a letter, the Linguist gets up and utters a lot of frothy compliments. When a man wants bread he must not be fed with wind. What the Linguist stated is not a letter from the King in answer to the one to which he promised a reply; and therefore the King, notwithstanding his promises, has broken his word and is not to be trusted again. It is very unpleasant to me, an English Governor, a Representative of the Great English Queen, and an English gentleman, to feel it incumbent on me to tell you these very unpleasant truths. When I had an interview with Mr. Ansah in June 1889, I spoke to him of the course he was pursuing, and pointed out that it was a very tortuous one, and I asked him, "Which is the best to pursue, a straight course or a tortuous course?" To which he replied, "Certainly a straight course is the best." But he has got at the young King, and he has pursued a tortuous course with Prempeh, and the consequence is that he has placed the young King in a very false position, and probably he has influenced Freku very much. Seeing that Ansah has been the cause of all the mischief, I am determined to unmask him, and he will discover in the end that a tortuous is not as good as a straight course, and that honesty is the best policy to pursue in life.

Now the King has broken his word. The British Government and the British people are a long suffering and forbearing race. They will put up with a great deal for a long time, and those unacquainted with them may say, what a foolish people they are. But once you go the wrong way to work with them, you will quickly find out your mistake, and once their confidence is shaken or lost in people it will never be restored. Now in spite of the discourtesy and disrespect with which the King has treated me by not keeping his promise to send me a reply to the letter forwarded to him by the Queen's orders; notwithstanding what I have told the special messengers of the King of Kumasi of the Queen's declaration that Her Majesty will not receive them, and that it is their business to communicate with Her Majesty's Representative, Mr. Ansah says that they intend to carry out the King's commission to go to England.

Messengers.—Not Mr. Ansah alone; all of us.

The Governor.—Are you, too, going?

Messengers.—Yes, your Excellency.

The Governor.—I am glad to see that Ashantis are so rich. Now I shall have to represent for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government the advisability of calling upon them to pay the money they owe under the Treaty they executed with Sir Garnet Wolseley. I do not want to prevent your going to England. It is indifferent to me whether you go or do not, but you are going notwithstanding you say that the liberty and courtesy that are always accorded to British subjects will be denied you. Well, I think it is just as well to be perfectly plain with you on this occasion, and I will read to you a part of a despatch which I wrote to the Secretary of State in consequence of a communication addressed to me by young Mr. Ansah. Of course we all heard down here that the King of Kumasi was collecting a large sum of money to pay the British Government to get back Asibi of the Kokofus and the other Ashanti refugees. But how any man who knew the British Government could fancy that they could be bought or won over in that way I cannot understand; but I suppose it is an Ashantian idea. However, after a little reflection, and with the assistance of Mr. Albert Ansah's letter, I began to see through the mist. Before I go any further, I wish to know whether you have sent to inform the King of Ashanti of the message I delivered to you the other day?

Linguist.—No, your Excellency.

The Governor.—You have not. Do you intend to do so?

Linguist.—Yes, your Excellency.

The Governor.—Will you get his answer in time before you go to England?

Chief Buatin.—Yes, your Excellency. We will get an answer in time.

The Governor.—How soon do you expect to get that answer? I do not intend to remain here to await your convenience. I will tell you how long it will take to get a reply. Say five days to go to Ashanti; five days to come down, and two days for the King to hear the message. That makes 12 days. I have recently had a Hausa runner to go from Cape Coast to Prahsu and return in less than three days, and the distance is the same from Prahsu to Kumasi.

Chief Buatin.—We will send the message to the King of Ashanti. The King has other Linguists besides this one (Freku), he has other Chiefs besides me, when the message is sent, he will convene a meeting of all of them and discuss the subject with them, and he will send an answer to your Excellency while we will go to England.

The Governor.—Well now, I am still speaking to Buatin and Freku, but I understand that you are going to England too—is that so?

Messengers.—Yes, your Excellency.

The Governor.—I have no doubt whatever that Mr. Ansah will not stop to hear the answer of the King. He would like to get away as quickly as he can.

Mr. Ansah.—I have come with the Chiefs. I will see the message to be sent to the King, and I shall wait for the reply before I leave.

Chief Buatin.—We are going to send the message to the King. Mr. Ansah, whether he goes to England or whether he remains, cannot be out of the Queen's power, so that he cannot escape the Queen.

The Governor.—Now upon that point I wish to say that young Mr. Ansah wrote to me to say that there were wild rumours about that the moment Mr. John Ansah set foot upon British soil I was going to deport him. But the Government does not tell out what it is going to do. Do you remember a man by the name of Yow Awuah? He was as happy as possible at Cape Coast one morning, and two hours later I had had him locked up in Elmina Gaol as a political prisoner. If I had intended to arrest Mr. Ansah and to treat him as a political prisoner, I would have done it without telling anybody about it. But this Government and the Governments of all civilised nations make it a rule to treat with courtesy and respect any persons who come from a foreign power whatever they might have done, and it only shows what guilty consciences the two Ansahs must have had when young Ansah made such a statement to me. If Mr. Ansah and his two colleagues there think for a moment that by my asking whether they were going to send the message to the King and wait for a reply before they left, I have the slightest idea of molesting Ansah, they are wrong. I would not act such an unwise part.

(Here, an objection having been raised to Mr. Anaman's interpretation by Mr. A. A. O. Ansah, Mr. Vroom was requested by the Governor to relieve him.)

The Governor continued: The ways of the English are as unlike the ways of the Ashantis as Heaven is unlike the Earth, the difference being that the English course is straight and the Ashanti course is tortuous. Now I have been endeavouring to make you two understand the character of Mr. John Ossoo Ansah, who calls himself a Prince, but who stated in that letter to me that African Princes have neither power nor position. And I say to the Linguist, and I say to the Chief, that we have a proverb in my country that none are so blind as those who will not see, and none are so deaf as those who will not hear. Now young Mr. Ansah has given me a good deal of information in his frequent letters and writings, and in consequence I have communicated my views with regard to Mr. John Ossoo Ansah to the Secretary of State, and I won't mind letting Mr. Ansah and the Chiefs into the secret of what I said. It is not very long ago since I wrote to the Secretary of State as follows:—

"I have the honour to state, for your Lordship's information, that, having carefully considered the statement made by Mr. A. A. Ossoo Ansah to the District Commissioner of Axim, it appeared to me clear that the object of the collection of money recently in Ashanti was not made, as had been reported, for the purpose of being presented to this Government as an inducement to allow the refugee Ashantis in this protectorate to return to their country, but with the veiled object to make pecuniary provision to defray the expense of sending messengers to England—"Ambassadors" as they are termed—to interview your Lordship, in the hope that you would be persuaded to acknowledge Ashanti as independent. Ansah is no doubt the master spirit at work in this business. No doubt he has done his best to make his relations at Kumasi believe that he is the most skilful, diplomatic, and capable agent they could employ to promote the views and expectations he has put into their minds, and he is very probably looking forward to an enjoyable time in England in his ambassadorial character, whether he succeeds or fails; while, posing as an African Prince, he will probably get credit from credulous people at home, and come out of the ambassadorial mission with substantial advantage to himself in the end.

"Yesterday, the 30th instant, I received a telegram in code, dated the 28th October, from the District Commissioner of Axim, addressed to the Colonial Secretary, in which it is stated that Prince A. A. Ossoo Ansah had informed the District Commissioner that a special embassy to the Governor of the Gold Coast was coming, and after consulting with the Governor would go immediately on to Great Britain. Prince Ansah will leave to join the others when they arrive at the frontier line. I attach a transcript of this telegram."

Well I wrote another letter to the Secretary of State of which this is an extract:—
"I have the honour to state that I have received reliable information, as per telegrams "attached, that a mission from Ashanti with from 300 to 500 followers will arrive at "Cape Coast about the middle of this month, and it is stated that the mission is to "proceed to Great Britain. Of course this is absurd. It is probable that Prince "Ansah alone will go to England, or he may be accompanied by one or two of the four "Chiefs who are coming with him, two from Kumasi and two from Bekwai, as I have "been informed."

I would again observe that it is a very singular thing that neither Bekwai, nor Juabin, nor Ofisu, nor any other of the Ashanti tribes, have sent any messengers here. I also stated to his Lordship "I think it may be assumed as a certainty that he will go there. "Money has been collected in order to send him. He will certainly not lose the chance "of going to England and making the very best of his holiday, and I would almost "venture to predict, that, having done so, he will take very good care not to return to "Ashanti again, because if he did, it is not at all unlikely that he would be decapitated, "or, as is the custom when members of the royal family transgress, compelled to commit "suicide, and therefore his interest will lie in the direction of keeping at a respectful "distance from Kumasi in future, and in ultimately seeing Ashanti under the control of "Great Britain; because in that case, whatever his misdoings, and however bitter the "Ashantis might in the end feel towards him for having deceived them, yet he would "know that under British rule his head, at least, would be safe." I wish you to know all this. I wish to be perfectly straight with you. I wish to pursue the English straightforward course. I could not allow myself to take the tortuous course which the Ashantis pursue.

Do I understand you clearly, then, that you are going to send a messenger to your King with the message that I gave you from the Queen, and that you are going to wait here for the reply before you go to England; or that you are going to send the message, and that instead of waiting for the reply you will proceed to England.

Linguist.—We are going to think of it.

Governor.—Does it require much time to think about it? You have partly stated already that you intended to wait, but to make it clear I have asked you.

Linguist.—We will send a messenger to the King with the message, we will not wait until he returns. We will go on. The messenger will bring a reply to your Excellency.

The Governor.—You are quite clear upon that point? I thought you would not wait; the chance of going to England is too good for you to lose it. It is utterly indifferent to me whether you wait or not.

Mr. A. A. O. Ansah.—Well, Governor, which do you prefer?

Governor.—I do not care about it. I only put it to you.

(Here messengers seemed undecided, when Mr. A. A. O. Ansah asked them to state their own mind with reference to what the Governor was questioning them about.)

Governor.—Well, you will take your course. I understand you to say that you will send the message, but you will not stay to hear the answer.

Mr. J. O. Ansah.—The Governor is not going to stay at Cape Coast all the time, and if the messenger returned, the message will have to be sent to your Excellency, that is why I asked the people to retire to think of it and bring their reply.

The Governor.—I should not wait seven months, and I won't tell you how long I will wait. I will only wait as long as it will suit the convenience of my Government. Whether you are going to stop for a reply or not is a matter perfectly indifferent to me. I shall take my course. But if you tell me that you are going to send the message to the King and that you will bring the answer in the course of 14 days, I will wait. I want to be perfectly frank and open with you. Well, Chief Buatin, you remember 15 years ago the Gold Axe. You had to deal with me. In 1888 I had a great deal to do with putting Prempé on the Stool; and then, again, there were some other little matters, and we had to settle them by letters; and here now, just as I am going to leave the

Colony, I have to deal with Ashanti again. It is too bad. The Government cannot go on like this for ever. I do not believe there is a single man living of those who came down to me in 1881 except Chief Andoh, Mr. Eminsang, and myself; and it was in this very room that I sent my message to the then King of Ashanti, Kwaku Dua. History repeats itself. Buatin, you and I have known each other for a long time, have we not?

Buatin.—It is so. I had something to do with that row of 1881. I came down with Buakyi Tsintsin in 1881.

Governor.—All the time you have been at Accra, and wherever we have met, have I not treated you with courtesy and kindness?

Buatin.—Yes, your Excellency.

Governor.—Well, you must know that my feeling towards Ashanti is a kind feeling, but sometimes, you know, people go a step too far and so make a great mistake. Now I have only one or two words more to say with reference to the paper which was handed to me. You were good enough to say that I showed passion and ill-feeling in my interview with you the other day. Well, I got up and appealed to those gentlemen who are here to-day and who were present on that day, and I asked them to state whether in what I did they recognised any bad spirit or passion on my part towards you, and I requested that if they thought you were right they would get up and say so. But not one of them got up. Therefore that question was settled against you. I do not propose to meet you again. I may wait here a little time and the answer will have to be sent to me whether I am at Cape Coast or whether I am at Accra. I won't detain you any longer.

Interview closed.

No. 20.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received February 22, 1895.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
January 25, 1895.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 31st December,* I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a letter received on the 18th instant from Messrs. Stewart and Vroom, dated at Kumasi on the 8th of January. The material portion of this communication was forwarded to your Lordship in my telegram of the 19th instant.†

2. On the 21st January I received a telegram from the District Commissioner at Cape Coast, in which he informed me, by request of Messrs. Stewart and Vroom, that "the King of Kumasi assured them that all matters will be finally settled by the 21st "January, that the answer will be very satisfactory," and that an important despatch followed. On reflection I decided not to report this telegram to your Lordship, as I could not bring myself to believe in this sudden change of opinion on the part of the Kumasis; and also as I considered that the intelligence conveyed in the telegram was calculated to be misleading.

3. On the 24th January I received a letter from Messrs. Stewart and Vroom, dated at Kumasi on the 16th instant, a copy of which is attached to this despatch. Your Lordship will observe one of the invariable characteristics of the Ashanti—that of procrastination— in the conduct of the Kumasis with the Special Mission. First the King stated that he would give a reply to the letter brought by Mr. Vroom in four weeks; on this delay being refused, he asked for three weeks, then he pleaded for two weeks, then for one week, and, lastly, his linguists begged the Mission to wait for five days, from the 16th to the 21st instant, when they assured Messrs. Stewart and Vroom that they should be able to take a satisfactory answer back to me. This request the Commission considered it advisable to grant "on the assurance from the chief linguist, "that the King of Kumasi would settle the matters that were pending between him and "the English Government for good and all on Monday, the 21st instant." "This assurance," Messrs. Stewart and Vroom state, "was given to us two or three times, and "we were also told that the answer would be satisfactory."

I should be very glad, my Lord, if I could bring myself to believe that reliance could be placed upon the promises made by the Kumasis to the Mission. But these efforts to

* No. 5.

† No. 3.

delay matters seem to me to be proof of the unreality of their intentions in transacting with the Government. How is it possible to place confidence in the good faith of men who (after nine months' delay) state that they require four weeks to consider as to the settlement of matters; then on a refusal ask for three, then for two, and lastly for one week? In these circumstances I cannot help thinking that what the King of Jukwa told me of them was correct, viz., that "they are fooling the English." I am inclined to think that to any proposals they may make they will attach some impossible conditions, and may also so reply to the letter sent by Mr. Vroom that the answer may be unacceptable to Her Majesty's Government. As the Ethiopian cannot change his skin, so also the Ashanti cannot change the natural bent of his mind in the direction of deceit, hypocrisy, mendacity, treachery, and unreliableness. However, I shall be only too glad to find that the assurance of the Kumasi linguists that the Mission by waiting from the 16th to the 21st instant will be able to bring a satisfactory answer back to this Government, and "that the King of Kumasi would settle the matters that were pending "between him and the English Government for good and all on Monday, the 21st "January," an assurance that was given to the Mission "two or three times," is correct.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 20.

Messrs. STEWART and VROOM to the GOVERNOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, Kumasi, January 8, 1895.

WE have the honour to state that we arrived in Kumasi at 2.30 on the 3rd January, having been delayed one day at Karsi by the King's messengers.

2. They requested us to wait in Karsi till 7th, when the King would receive us. This we objected to, as our orders were to proceed at once; we would, however, halt one day and proceed to Kumasi the next day.

3. The King received us about 4.30 on the day of arrival, when we went through the regular salutations, and afterwards he and his people returned them; it was 7 p.m. when all was over and we were shown our houses.

4. Next day we were told the King would receive us and hear our message on Monday the 7th. We could not get him to give an earlier date, as the King said his outlying Chiefs could not get here till then.

5. On the morning of the 7th we sent messengers at 7 a.m. to ask what time the King would receive us; they then sent back to say he could not receive us till the 10th, as his Chiefs had not come yet; we then pressed for an audience for the 7th, as that was the date fixed by the King himself. Again they said the 10th, and also said that Chief Amankwatsia was ill and could not come.

6. These messages were carried backwards and forwards all day, and at last, at 10 p.m., the King said he was ready to receive us.

7. We decided to go, late as it was. We found him seated in the Courtyard of his palace with his Chiefs and people. Chief Amankwatsia was present, notwithstanding they said he was ill in the morning. We told the King that we considered it was an act of great discourtesy not to return an answer to a message from the Governor's officers sent to him at 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. at night. They never apologised.

8. Your Excellency's letter was read to him; there was some excitement at Her Majesty's telegram referring to a ruler who carried on human sacrifices, and also at the statement that their independence would not be interfered with further than mentioned in the treaty. The King said he would send for his "big Chiefs," and they would be in by Thursday; the contents of the letter would be told them. We were asked if we would read the letter again to them on Thursday. We said we would if we considered it necessary and offered to explain any point they were not clear on.

9. We then asked permission to leave, which was granted. The palaver was finished about 12.30 a.m.

10. We do not think from their general demeanour that they have any intention of agreeing to a treaty, and are even uncertain if they will give an answer to the letter sent by Mr. Vroom to them in February last. The reason they tried to delay receiving the message was, we think, possibly to enable them to communicate with Mr. Ansah, or that one of the "big Chiefs" had refused to be represented here, and they wanted time to send another messenger to him; perhaps the King of Bekwai.

11. We are glad to say that the whole mission are in excellent health. We expect to leave here on the 15th instant.

We have, &c.
D. STEWART,
Captain and Travelling Commissioner.
HK. VROOM,
District Commissioner,
Gold Coast Colony.

His Excellency
Sir W. Brandford Griffith, K.C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.
Gold Coast Colony.

Enclosure 2 in No. 20.

Messrs. STEWART and VROOM to the GOVERNOR.

SIR, Kumasi, January 16, 1895.

WE have the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that we were prepared to leave here this morning, not having been able to get any satisfactory reply to your requests; but after an interview with the King of Kumasi's linguists this morning, we decided that it was advisable to wait till Monday next, the 21st January, on the following grounds.

Yesterday the King said he would give a reply to the letter Mr. Vroom brought ten months ago in four weeks. This delay we would not hear of. Then they said in three weeks, then in two weeks, then in one week; even this we refused, as our instructions were to wait seven days and we had waited eight days already, without any reply.

This morning when we were all ready to start the linguists came and begged us to wait the week, and they assured us we should be able to take a satisfactory answer back to your Excellency. We ultimately decided on waiting till Monday, the 21st January, and this they agreed to.

We only agreed to wait till then on the assurance from the chief linguist that the King of Kumasi would settle the matters that were pending between him and the English Government for good and all on Monday, the 21st January.

This assurance was given to us two or three times, and we were also told that the answer would be satisfactory.

Taking all this into consideration, we hope your Excellency will not consider we have exceeded our orders in staying here the few extra days the King of Kumasi requests to give his final reply.

We have, &c.
DONALD STEWART,
Captain and Travelling Commissioner.
HK. VROOM,
District Commissioner.

To His Excellency the Governor,
Gold Coast Colony.

No. 21.

COLONIAL OFFICE to LIVERPOOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR, Downing Street, February 23, 1895.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 20th instant,* forwarding a copy of one addressed to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the injury done to trade at the Gold Coast by the disturbed state of the interior countries, and urging the establishment of a British Commissioner at Kumasi.

In reply, I am to state, for the information of your Chamber, that the matters to which you refer are engaging the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
EDWARD WINGFIELD.

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* No. 18.

No. 22.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received March 12, 1895.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
February 6, 1895.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 25th of January,* I have the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, the arrival at head-quarters yesterday, by the Mail Steamer "Gaboon," of Captain Stewart and Mr. Vroom, who returned from the Special Mission on which they had been sent on 24th December last to the King of Kumasi.

2. Yesterday evening I received their report and transmit a copy of it herewith for your Lordship's consideration.

3. The mission appears to have been purposely delayed and also to have been treated with indignity and insolence by the King of Kumasi. This is the opinion of Messrs. Stewart and Vroom upon the point, and it is confirmed by various statements in their report.

4. If anything could possibly be wanted to satisfy anyone of the utter worthlessness of any promise made by an Ashanti ruler, it would be found in the declaration of the King of Kumasi by his linguists—as stated in my Despatch of the 25th of January*—that if the special messengers would wait four weeks, three weeks, two weeks, and coming down to five days at last, "they would be able to take a satisfactory "answer back to the Governor." Messrs. Stewart and Vroom considered it would be best not to let the Ashantis put them in the wrong by refusing to wait five days, because if they had refused the Ashantis would have seized on this at once to declare that if they had remained for the time stated everything would have been settled up satisfactorily, and so matters would have remained an open question still. They therefore decided to stay for five days longer, and at the final interview with the King, after a scene which they describe, they withdrew from the King's presence without any reply, which, however, was sent to them by a linguist who stated that the King's answer was as follows :—

"The King of Ashanti and Chiefs have sent Chief Buatin, Linguist Kweku Freku, King's Grandson Ansah to see the Queen of England and deliver to Her the answer to the letter brought by Mr. Vroom. The embassy will go to the Queen and deliver the answer."

On the special messengers asking if that was the answer to their message, the reply was :—

"That is all the answer we have for the Governor." They were then told that that was no answer to the letter brought by Mr. Vroom, and could not be taken as such. The linguists replied, "This is the King's final reply," and they then abruptly left.

5. It will be seen that the King of Kumasi has refused to send me a reply to the letter taken to him by Mr. Vroom, and that, notwithstanding he has been informed by command of Her Majesty's Government that the special embassy he proposes to send to England will not be received there, and that Her Majesty can only communicate with him through the Governor of the Gold Coast, who is the Queen's representative, to whom the King of Kumasi should at once reply to the message sent to him in the letter delivered by Mr. Vroom to the King, yet the King in the face of the foregoing Imperial declaration and order boldly sets both at defiance, and states that "the "Embassy will go to the Queen and deliver the answer," and that "that is all the "answer he has for the Governor."

6. It appears to me, in view of all that has passed since September 1893, that Her Majesty's Government has left no stone unturned to bring about amicable relations with the King of Kumasi, but all have failed, owing to the bad advice the King has followed, with the result that the relations of this Colony with the authorities of that place are now highly strained—a state of things which is operating on native opinion injuriously to this Government, and is likely to be productive of mischievous consequences; while the present situation creates a position from which, considering matters from every point of view, I see no chance of change for the better except by taking forcible measures to compel the Ashantis to obey the mandate of Her Majesty's Government. Upon this point I propose to address your Lordship again by telegram after I have had an opportunity of consulting the members of my Executive Council.

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* No. 20.

7. A sad and most suspicious incident occurred when the Special Mission was passing through Fumsu in Adansi on its return from Kumasi. The special messengers state with regard to it :—

"We regret that we have to report the death of Private Dawudu Moshi, one of our escort, who was shot dead from an ambush near the village of Fumasu in Adansi country. We think that the men who committed the murder never intended to kill the Hausa but were waiting for one of the white officers to pass, or Mr. Vroom, probably the latter. The Hausa must have seen them and they then fired to prevent him giving any warning. He was shot from behind a tree within ten yards of the main path, and the shot was fired within five paces of him."

So convinced is Mr. Vroom that the two men who were noticed by a Hausa running away in the bush were sent from Kumasi with orders to shoot him that he has entreated me not to send him to Sefwi, which I was about to do, as the Kumasis have adherents there who would, he fully believes, murder him. He gives as his reason for the suspicion he entertains that he had heard at Cape Coast and elsewhere, that the Kumasis and Ansah are incensed against him because he has been brought into prominence by the Government in connexion with affairs at Kumasi, and has aided the Government by his personal services and advice with regard to Ashanti.

8. It is with great satisfaction that I have read the statement made by the special messengers relative to the conduct of their escort. They say—

"Native officer Dambarnu was of the greatest assistance to the officer in command of the escort (Assistant-Inspector Middlemist), and on all occasions carried out his orders in the most thorough manner. We should also like to bring to your Excellency's notice the excellent behaviour of the Hausas composing the escort, not a single complaint having been made against them during the whole journey to Kumasi and back. No men could have behaved better."

9. The mission was engaged on its special duties from 24th December 1894, to 31st January 1895, a period of 39 days.

I have, &c.
W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 22.

Messrs. Stewart and Vroom to the Governor.

Sir, Accra, February 5, 1895.

We have the honour to state, for your Excellency's information, that on the 21st January 1895 we proceeded to meet the King of Kumasi and his Chiefs at a palaver in his palace. According to our agreement, we were to have been given the answer to the letter Mr. Vroom took up ten months ago, this answer we had been assured was satisfactory and would settle things finally. Instead of this, they first demanded that Her Majesty the Queen of England's message should be read again to them. After a lot of talk we agreed to do so and read it for the third time, on finishing we asked for the reply to the letter they had received ten months ago. Then the King of Offisu commenced to demand our papers, saying that they could give no answer until the papers had been given up, this we refused to do ; several people made the same demands. The two War Chiefs, Amankwatsi and Asafu Buachie, now came forward and addressed the people in the same vein and they all said that we should have no answer until we had delivered up the papers. By this time the whole palaver was in an uproar, yelling and shouting, so that one could not get a hearing, and as we could get no other answer from the King of Kumasi and his Chiefs we asked permission to withdraw and withdrew. When on our way back to our quarters, some linguists, sword bearers, and court criers came after us, and said we must go back, and that then the King would give us his final answer, but knowing that their only object to get us back was to continue their demands for the papers, and also that the answer when we got it would be unfavourable, we decided not to return, but told his messengers that the King could send his answer to us in the usual way through his linguists, this he did and the answer was as follows :—

"The King of Ashanti and Chiefs have sent Chief Buatin, Linguist Kweku Freku, King's Grandson Ansah, to see the Queen of England and deliver to Her the answer to the letter brought by Mr. Vroom. The embassy will go to the Queen and deliver the answer."

On asking if that was the answer to our message, they said "that is all the answer we "have for the Governor." They were then told that that was no answer to the letter brought by Mr. Vroom and could not be taken as such. The linguists replied, "This is the King's final reply," and then abruptly left us. We called them back and asked for permission to say good-bye to the King of Kumasi, but were informed he was too tired to see us that day, but would in the morning; in the morning he was too sleepy to receive us, so we sent our respects by a sword-bearer and left for the coast.

Up to Saturday, the 19th January 1895, the Chiefs were wavering and very undecided what answer to send, some we believe were quite willing to sign a treaty, others not.

On Saturday or Sunday morning, the 19th or 20th of January, they got a runner from Cape Coast, and this evidently turned the tide, as they then changed the answer they were going to give to the present one.

The King of Beckwai was only represented by a linguist at the palaver; we have every reason to believe that he was not a supporter of the actions the King of Kumasi and his Chiefs have taken.

While we were in Kumasi, Amankwatsia's brother died and we have every reason to believe that several people were sacrificed.

We also heard that about 20 people had been sacrificed about the first week of December 1894, on the death of one of the King of Kumasi's relations.

Just outside the King's palace were recently a dozen human jaw bones and one shin bone lying in the open road; the King must, however, have heard we noticed them, as about four days after our arrival they were removed.

There is no change of any kind in the country since Mr. Vroom was up in 1894, beyond that some small villages of a few huts each have sprung up in the Adansi country, and that the people are starting farming round them.

The road to Kumasi after crossing the River Prah is very much overgrown, and travelling over it in the rainy season would be a very difficult matter, only about one mile between the villages of Quarman and Egemassi being kept clean; both these villages belong to Beckwai.

We regret that we have to report the death of Private Dawudu Moshi, one of our escort, who was shot dead from an ambush near the village of Fumasu in Adansi country. We think that the men who committed the murder never intended to kill the Hausa, but were waiting for one of the white officers to pass, or Mr. Vroom, probably the latter. The Hausa must have seen them and they then fired to prevent him giving any warning. He was shot from behind a tree within ten yards of the main path and the shot was fired within five paces of him. We carried the body on to Esamon and then sent back for all the Chiefs of the village and told them they must try and find the murderers and bring them in, they brought in the only man who was away from the three villages on that day with a gun. The man's name is Yow Apon; he first said he was an Assin, but on examination he was found to be an Ashanti. We delivered him over for safe keeping to the Officer Commanding the Gold Coast Constabulary at Elmina, until he had further instructions from your Excellency. We beg to enclose the statements from men of the escort who were nearest to the place where the murder occurred.

We also attach Assistant-Colonial-Surgeon Forde's certificate of death. The Mission all returned in excellent health, beyond a few cuts and bruises and a few cases of guinea worm.

Only one death occurred from sickness, a man called Jacob, servant to Assistant-Inspector Middlemist.

We desire to record our best thanks to the following officers:—

Assistant-Inspector Middlemist, who was in command of our escort, was most careful in carrying out your Excellency's instructions.

He performed his duties in the most able manner and gave us every assistance in his power, and we commend him to your Excellency's favourable consideration.

To Assistant-Colonial-Surgeon F. M. Forde, who was in medical charge of the Mission, we are all indebted for our excellent state of health; this was entirely due to the care and attention with which he carried out his work. We must commend him to your Excellency's most favourable consideration.

Native Officer Dambarnu was of the greatest assistance to the officer in command of the escort, and on all occasions carried out his orders in the most thorough manner. We should be glad if your Excellency could see your way to making him the grant of money alluded to in paragraph 14 of Political, No. 34, of the 22nd December 1894, in consideration of his excellent services while on escort with the mission.

We should also like to bring to your Excellency's notice the excellent behaviour of the Hausas composing the escort, not a single complaint having been made against them during the whole journey to Kumasi and back. No men could have behaved better.

We left Kumasi on January the 22nd, 1895, and arrived at Elmina, January the 31st, 1895. The itinerary of the mission is attached.

We have, &c.
DONALD STEWART,
Captain and Travelling Commissioner.
HK. VROOM,
District Commissioner.

To His Excellency the Governor,
Gold Coast Colony, Accra.

Assistant-Inspector MIDDLEMIST to Captain STEWART and Mr. VROOM.

GENTLEMEN, Prahsue, January 27, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report with regret the death of No. 1462, Private Dawudu Moshi, who was shot on the 25th instant, near the village of Fumasue, in Adansi country, about 2.30 p.m. I attach copies of the statements of the non-commissioned officers in charge of the advance guard and main body, and one private, Quarrah Grunshi (2), who was close by at the time.

I have, &c.
J. M. MIDDLEMIST,
Lieut. & Asst. Insp., G.C.C.

To Captain Stewart, T.C., and
H. Vroom, Esq., D.C.

STATEMENT of Sergeant AMADU FULANI (5), with reference to the death of the late No. 1462, Private DAWUDU MOSHI, who was killed on the 25th January 1895, near Fumasue.

On the 25th instant, about 450 yards from Fumasue, Sergeant Abraham sent a man to tell me to halt the advance guard: about five minutes afterwards I heard a gun fired, and I said, I hear a gun fired. The men said, yes, we hear the gun, but it's behind us. A short time after that I heard the advance, and a few minutes afterwards the retire for the advance guard.

When I heard the gun fired, I thought it was a hunter.

ARMADU FULANI, his × mark,
Lance Serjeant.

Prahsue, 27th January 1895.

STATEMENT of Sergeant WILLIAM ABRAHAM, with reference to the death of late No. 1462, Private DAWUDU MOSHI, who was killed on the 25th January 1895, near Fumasue.

25th. The day before yesterday we had left Fumasue and gone about 300 yards; I halted the men to allow the Commanding Officer's hammock to come up; about five minutes afterwards I heard a gun fired. The Commanding Officer came up and sounded the advance; just after we had commenced to march, No. 1172, Private Kwaroah Gunshi (2), came running up to me and said that a Hausa had been killed, I said, is it true? He said, yes, it's true. I said, Where is the man? He said, Look, the man is there. When I saw the man lying down, I ran back and reported it to the Commanding Officer.

WILLIAM ABRAHAM, his × mark.
Sergeant.

Prahsue, 27th January 1895.

STATEMENTS of No. 1172, Private KWARRAH GRUNSHI (2), with reference to the death of late Private Dawudu Moshi, who was killed on the 25th January 1895 near Fumasue.

When we halted, I asked the Sergeant to fall out; just as I was sitting down I heard a gun fired, I smelt the powder, and the smoke came all round me. I got up and looked round and said, Who fired that gun so close to me, do you want to kill me? I then saw two men running away in the bush and only saw the upper part of them. I sat down again: afterwards I dressed and walked along the road towards

the advanced guard and saw a rifle and accoutrements lying in the side road. When I perceived these, I went to see who was there. On reaching where the rifle was, I saw a man lying in the bush and found that he was dead, so I returned back and told Sergeant Abraham.

KWARRAH GRUNSHI, his × mark.

Prahsue, 27th January 1895.

Colonial Hospital, Cape Coast,
February 4, 1895.

This is to certify that Dawudu Moshi died on the 25th January 1895, the cause of death being gun shot injuries received on the back of the right shoulder penetrating the right lung and heart. In my opinion death must have been instantaneous.

R. M. FORDE,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon,
Gold Coast.

No. 23.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received March 12, 1895.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
February 7, 1895.

MY LORD,

I REGRET to find that by an oversight I have omitted to forward to your Lordship a copy of a letter received from Mr. John Ossoo Ansah and his party, upon which my telegram of the 10th January* was based. I have now the honour to submit a transcript of the letter referred to, the essential particulars of which were stated in my telegram of the 10th January.

I have, &c.
W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 23.

Mr. JOHN OSSO ANSAH AND OTHERS to the GOVERNOR.

Ashanti Embassy, Freemason's Hall, Cape Coast Castle,
January 3, 1895.

To His Excellency Sir B. GRIFFITH, K.C.M.G., &c. &c. &c., Government House, Accra.

SIR,

WE had the honour to report to your Excellency, by telegram, on the 1st instant, the arrival of the special messenger sent to the King of Ashanti, as agreed upon at the interview held with your Excellency on the 15th ultimo, at Cape Coast Castle, and to intimate that we shall take the liberty to communicate to your Excellency the reply he has brought down.

With the special messenger arrived also another messenger from the King and Council with the following message:—

"1. That His Majesty caused a letter to be written to your Excellency, that he would, after due consultation with his District Kings and Chiefs, send a reply to the letter of Mr. Hodgson, dated February 23rd last year.

"2. That after due consultation with them, and prior to the appointment of the embassy now at Cape Coast, the Council was of opinion that the question raised by Mr. Hodgson's letter above referred to was so grave and sweeping, touching as it does the constitution and construction of His Majesty's Independent Kingdom; that considering the unfriendly attitude already assumed by Her Majesty's Government on the coast to the kingdom of His Majesty (and His Majesty deeply regrets this should be the case), it is impossible that mutual sympathy and understanding could be looked for, or arrived at in this Colony, to prevent war and bloodshed. And that, therefore, a special embassy should be sent to England, to lay before Her Majesty and Council this and other important matters connected with the peace and progress of His Majesty's Kingdom, and

* No. 1.

her beneficial co-operation with Her Majesty's settlement on this coast, for full discussion and final decision.

"3. That the envoys were asked to see your Excellency, and to say they have been thus empowered to go to England to see Her Britannic Majesty."

We have, &c.,

JOHN OSSO ANSAH, of Ashanti,
Head of Embassy.
ALBERT ARTHUR OSSOO ANSAH, P.,
Ambassador.

	their	
BUATIN, CHIEF	×	Ambassador.
KWAKU FOKU	×	„
INKRUMAH	×	„
BONNAR	×	Attached to the Embassy.
ACKAMPON DABBAN	×	
KOJO TUFUOR	×	

marks.

Witness to marks:
J. GALTIN HALM, Secretary.

No. 24.

GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

[*Answered by No.* 30.]

7, West George Street, Glasgow,
March 14, 1895.

MY LORD,

THE attention of the Directors of this Chamber has again been directed to the matter of disturbances to trade by the Ashantee tribes of the West Coast of Africa, in connexion with which a memorial was, on 26th January 1894,* addressed to your Lordship by the Directors of the Chamber.

A courteous acknowledgment of receipt of this memorial was, by your Lordship's direction, sent on the 31st of said month,† in which it was stated "that the matters referred "to were engaging the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government."

I now beg leave respectfully to inquire, for the information of the Chamber, what measures have been adopted by Her Majesty's Government, for remedying or preventing the disturbances complained of.

I am, &c.
WALTER DUNCAN,
President.

No. 25.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.

[*Answered by No.* 45.]

EXTRACT.

Downing Street, March 15, 1895.

As you are about to assume the administration of the Government of the Gold Coast Colony, I desire to put you in possession of the conclusions at which Her Majesty's Government have arrived with respect to the relations between the Colonial Government and the King of Kumasi.

As you are aware from the papers which have been furnished to you, those relations have for a long time past been very unsatisfactory, and have recently assumed a serious aspect.

In February 1894, Mr. Hodgson, then acting-Governor, sent, under instructions from Her Majesty's Government, a message to the King inviting him to accept a British agent to discharge certain duties at Kumasi, and to observe certain conditions which it was considered necessary to lay down for the preservation of peace, and for promoting the development and security of trade.

To this message no reply has been returned, but the King sent down to the coast certain messengers, whom he styled ambassadors, with instructions to proceed to England to see Her Majesty the Queen.

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* No. 51 in [C. 7917.].

† No. 54 in [C. 7917.].

The Governor was thereupon directed to inform the messengers that if they came to England they would not be received, and a mission was sent to Kumasi to tell the King that the Queen could only communicate with him through the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, who is Her representative, to whom, therefore, he should at once reply to the message sent to him, and that in no case would Her Majesty receive a mission from a ruler who is accused, on apparently good grounds, of allowing human sacrifices.

The mission was treated with marked discourtesy by the King, whose final answer was that his messengers at Cape Coast Castle were in possession of his reply to Mr. Hodgson's letter of 23rd February 1894, which would be delivered to the Queen of England in England.

Under these circumstances, Sir W. Brandford Griffith submitted in his telegram of 12th ultimo,* his views of what should be done, and strongly recommended that an expedition should be at once sent against Kumasi to enforce the conditions laid down by Her Majesty's Government.

The policy advocated by Sir B. Griffith has received the serious and careful consideration of Her Majesty's Government, but, for various reasons, and particularly in view of the very limited time available for active operations before the commencement of the rainy season, they have felt themselves unable to authorise any action which might involve the immediate despatch of an expedition, and a telegram to this effect was accordingly sent to Sir B. Griffith on the 1st instant.

They, however, fully recognise that matters cannot be indefinitely left in their present unsatisfactory position, and they entertain the conviction that your long experience in dealing with natives elsewhere will enable you to bring a fresh and practised eye to bear upon the whole subject, and to furnish them with a valuable and trustworthy opinion as to the course of action which it will be most desirable to adopt.

I have therefore to instruct you, on your arrival at the Gold Coast, to make a careful examination of the questions pending with the King of Kumasi, and of the policy which it would be best to pursue in regard to them, and to report fully on the subject.

As it would now be impossible for any military expedition to be undertaken for some months, ample time is afforded for a careful and judicious consideration of the various questions which are involved.

Her Majesty's Government would desire to avoid the necessity of warlike operations if possible, and you should therefore direct your first attention to the possibility of bringing about a peaceful settlement.

If, however, after due consideration, you should be of opinion that there is no chance of accomplishing this desirable object, Her Majesty's Government consider that, before taking hostile action, it would be right to make a further communication to the King, setting out their causes of complaint against him, and his breaches of the Treaty of Fommanah of 1874, in not paying the indemnity stipulated for, and in continuing to allow and encourage the practice of human sacrifices, calling upon him to fulfil his obligations, and demanding an immediate and explicit reply, to be delivered within a fixed time of reasonable duration, addressed to you as Governor.

If the reply should be unsatisfactory, or not be sent within the time allotted, it will then become necessary to send a military expedition to enforce compliance with the demands made. You should, therefore, in your report, go fully into the questions of the strength and cost of such an expedition. Its strength should be amply sufficient to ensure success, as any check or failure would be very injurious, and much more costly in the end.

The expense of the expedition would have to be borne entirely from colonial funds, and you will, of course, bear this in mind in framing your arrangements.

You are aware that, although Prempeh styles himself "King of Ashanti" he does not legally hold that position, as, by the custom of the country, he cannot occupy the "Golden Stool" of Ashanti unless placed there by the King of Kokofu and the King of Mampon, both of whom are at the present time refugees within the British Protectorate. Prempeh is therefore only King of Kumasi, and Her Majesty's Government do not recognize him as possessing any other title.

I have now, I think, fully explained to you the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to this important and complicated matter, and I shall await with interest the report which you are desired to furnish.

I need scarcely, perhaps, impress upon you that no ultimatum must be sent without direct authority from the Secretary of State, and that no steps must be taken towards the preparation of an expedition without his knowledge and approval.

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* No. 12.

No. 26.

Sir W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received March 16, 1895.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
February 13, 1895.

My Lord,

Referring to your Lordship's telegram of the 5th instant,* I have the honour to forward herewith transcript of a letter dated the 6th of February which I caused to be written to Mr. John Ossoo Ansah and the other special messengers from Kumasi, conveying to them the message contained in the telegram referred to, together with copy of the reply written by Mr. Ansah on behalf of himself and the other messengers on the 11th instant, the text of which, with the concurrence of the members of my Executive Council, expressed at an informal meeting, I transmitted to your Lordship in my telegram† of the following day.

I have, &c.
W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 26.

The Private Secretary to Mr. Ansah and Others.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
February 6, 1895.

Sirs,

I am directed by the Governor to state to you that his Excellency has received the following telegram from the Most Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and, acting under instructions from his Lordship, the Governor directs me to communicate it to you as follows for your information :—

"Inform the messengers that if they come to England after they have been forbidden to do so they will not be allowed to see Her Majesty the Queen."

I remain, &c.
J. Hall,
Private Secretary.

Mr. John Ossoo Ansah
and the other persons sent by
the King of Kumasi as
special messengers to
Cape Coast.

Enclosure 2 in No. 26.

Mr. Ansah and Others to the Governor.

Ashanti Embassy, Freemasons Hall,
Cape Coast Castle, February 11, 1895.

Sir,

In acknowledging receipt of your communication dated 6th instant, we have the honour to inform you that we refuse to be dictated to by any other than our own Government, and we must assure you that nothing would deter us from proceeding to England to lay our mission before the authorities on the spot.

We must inform you further that we will refuse to receive any communication from you if addressed us as you did, to wit :—

"Mr. John Ossoo Ansah and the other persons sent by the King of Kumasi as special messengers to Cape Coast"—

for we have already protested that we are no messengers as you ascribed us to be; and you will please note that any communication addressed us in the manner we take objection will be at once returned unopened in future.

We have, &c.
John Ossoo Ansah, of Ashanti,
Head of Embassy,
For self and other members of
the Ashanti Embassy.

To His Excellency
Sir B. Griffith, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.
Government House, Accra.

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* No. 8. † No. 13.

No. 27.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received March 16, 1895.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
February 15, 1895.

MY LORD,

IN my Despatch dated the 6th instant* it was stated in paragraph 3 that "the mission appears to have been purposely delayed, and also to have been treated "with indignity and insolence by the King of Kumasi. This is the opinion of Messrs. "Stewart and Vroom upon the point, and it is confirmed by various statements in their "report."

2. In the course of conversation with the officers referred to upon what is stated in the preceding paragraph they casually made statements to me which I thought afterwards should be more particularly dealt with. I therefore requested them to describe what they had told me in writing, and I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a communication they addressed to me upon the subject, which fully corroborates their statement that they had been treated with indignity and insolence by the authorities of Kumasi.

I have, &c.
W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 27.

Messrs. STEWART and VROOM to the GOVERNOR.

Accra, February 11, 1895.

SIR,

WE have the honour to state that we should like to add certain facts to our report of the 5th of February 1895, with regard to the manner with which we were treated by the Ashanti King and his Chiefs in palaver. During the palavers held at Kumasi, after having read Her Majesty the Queen of England's message for the second time, the King, Chiefs, and linguists demanded that we should give up our papers, notwithstanding that they had been repeatedly told that the papers were our private instructions. These demands were made in a most insolent way, we being told that unless we delivered up our papers we should get no answer.

We again refused to give them up, and asked for leave to withdraw. This request we repeated numerous times.

The answer was, through the linguists and War Chiefs: "Yes, but not till you have given up the papers." On this we rose and asked whether we were detained as prisoners.

After some time spent in talking amongst themselves they said: No, not as prisoners, but you must give up the papers before you can go.

Again and again we asked permission to withdraw, but they persisted in their demands.

King Kwaku Dua III. then said: If you refuse to give up the papers, then you must tell me what answer to send.

We again explained that we had no letter for the King of Kumasi, and that the papers simply contained our instructions; all we required was an answer to the letter sent about 10 months ago by his Excellency the Governor through Mr. Vroom.

We ultimately received permission to withdraw, much to the annoyance of the War Chiefs, who wanted to detain us.

Another incident was, during Mr. Vroom's interpretation of Her Majesty the Queen of England's message, War Chief Ammankwatsia turned round in a most insulting manner and asked Mr. Vroom if he, Mr. Vroom, had written the letter. We demanded an apology for this remark, but none was given.

Later on the same Chief, in a most insolent speech, said: "I think you came for "peace; the letter ought to be given to the King; the King sent an answer to the "Governor's letter by his messengers, and the Queen refused to receive them. Yes, as "it is yonder, so it is here. Now, you Vroom, tell the white man to give up the letter

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* No. 22.

" to the King. Your mission you say is peaceable; if so, I advise you to give up the " letter."

Again we assured them that our mission was a peaceable one, but we could not give up our papers.

We have, &c.
DONALD STEWART,
Captain and Travelling Commissioner.
HK. VROOM, D.C.

To His Excellency the Governor,
Gold Coast Colony.

No. 28.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received March 16, 1895.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
February 16, 1895.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward, attached to this Depatch, for your Lordship's information, copies of correspondence arising out of an attempt made by Mr. John Ossoo Ansah to induce this Government to recognise him and his fellow messengers as " ambassadors accredited to " me and to " Her Britannic Majesty." In his letter of January 18th, he states that a warrant had been issued by the District Commissioner of Cape Coast " for the arrest of Prince Albert Ossoo Ansah of Ashanti for being a few " minutes late in Court," and he adds, " We exceedingly regret that the warrant above " referred to was issued out at all from the fact that the said Prince being known to your " Government as one of the special ambassadors accredited to your Excellency and " Her Britannic Majesty, and as such we believe the law should have been in-operative " on his person, according to the general usages of international courtesy."

2. I referred Mr. Ansah's letter to the Attorney-General in a minute dated the 1st February, to which he replied on the 7th instant, and after referring to the points raised stated, " I am of opinion that these men have not the status they claim and that while " they remain here they are subject to our laws, and to the jurisdiction of our Courts.

3. In view of this opinion, I have caused the letter drafted by the Attorney-General to be written to Mr. Ansah, and it will be taken to Cape Coast by Captain Stewart, who will proceed there in the mail steamer " Bakana," due at Accra on the 20th instant, and will deliver it to Mr. Ansah personally, in consequence of his having declared that he will not receive any communication addressed to himself and the persons associated with him unless they are styled " ambassadors, &c." A copy of your Lordship's telegram of 15th instant* will be handed to him at the same time, and Captain Stewart has been instructed that if Mr. Ansah refuses to receive these communications he is to open and read them to that person.

4. The District Commissioner of Cape Coast will be duly informed with regard to what is stated in the enclosures sent herewith.

I have, &c.
W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 28.

Mr. JOHN OSSOO ANSAH and Others to the GOVERNOR.

Ashanti Embassy, Freemasons' Hall, Cape Coast Castle,
January 18, 1895.

SIR,

IT has come to the knowledge of the Embassy that a warrant was issued out and signed by Mr. Commissioner Peregrine for the arrest of Prince Albert Ossoo Ansah of Ashanti for being a few minutes late in Court to answer a suit by Regina per Cheetham on Section 137, ss. 25, 12, 92. This happily had no effect from the fact that the defendent Prince came to the court himself shortly after the issue of the said warrant, and although the court took a lenient view of the matter and dismissed the action we

* No. 16.

exceedingly regret that the warrant above referred to was issued out at all from the fact that the said Prince being known to your Government as one of the special ambassadors accredited to your Excellency and Her Britannic Majesty, and as such we believe the law should have been inoperative on his person according to the general usages of international courtesy.

We have, &c.
JOHN OSSOO ANSAH of Ashanti,
Head of Embassy.
For self and other members of the Embassy.
J. GATTIN HALM, Secretary, Embassy.

Enclosure 2 in No. 28.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY to Mr. ANSAH.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Accra, Gold Coast,
February 16, 1895.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour, by the direction of his Excellency the Governor, to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 18th ultimo, and, with reference to the complaint therein contained, I am to state that his Excellency is advised that you and the others with you sent by the King of Kumasi have not the status claimed by you, and that, therefore, you and they while in this Colony are subject to the laws thereof and to the jurisdiction of the Courts.

I have, &c.
F. M. HODGSON,
Colonial Secretary.

Mr. John Ossoo Ansah,
Freemasons' Hall, Cape Coast.

No. 29.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received March 16, 1895.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
February 18, 1895.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my Despatch dated 13th February,* I have to-day received from the Colonial Secretary the annexed copy of a letter sent to him by the special messengers from Kumasi, together with a letter addressed to me by them and enclosed under flying seal to the Colonial Secretary for delivery. This communication affords another proof that Messrs. Ansah are forgetting themselves by the line of conduct they are pursuing.

I have, &c.
W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 29.

Mr. ANSAH and OTHERS to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Ashanti Embassy, Freemasons' Hall, Cape Coast Castle,
February 13, 1895.

SIR,

HEREWITH we transmit through you a further communication we have this day addressed to his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.

We have, &c.
JOHN OSSOO ANSAH of Ashanti,
Head of Embassy, for self and other members of the Ashanti Embassy.

The Hon.
The Colonial Secretary.

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*No. 26.

Enclosure 2 in No. 29.

Mr. ANSAH and OTHERS to the GOVERNOR.

Cape Coast Castle, Ashanti Embassy, Freemasons' Hall,
SIR, February 13, 1895.

IN continuation of our communication of yesterday we have the honour to state that we regret to note that, as a representative of the monarchial principle, you should take objection to recognising the two Princes of the Embassy, John and Albert Arthur Ossoo Ansah, as Princes in your addresses in the several correspondence you had had with the Embassy.

We must here mention that they are the grandsons of King Osai Tootoo Quamin *alias* Bonsoo, and they are recognised as hereditary Princes in all Ashanti.

We will consider it a breach of civilise etequette should at any future correspondence you may have with the Embassy the rank belonging to these Princes are not recognised, and then the question shall have to be considered whether such correspondence would be worth acknowledging.

We have, &c.
JOHN Ossoo ANSAH of Ashanti,
Head of Embassy, for self
and other members of the
Ashanti Embassy.

To His Excellency
Sir B. Griffith, K.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Government House, Accra.

No. 30.

COLONIAL OFFICE to GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR, Downing Street, March 22, 1895.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 14th instant,* and in reply I am to acquaint you that his Lordship regrets that the efforts which have been made during the past year to effect an arrangement with Ashanti have not yet had a satisfactory result.

The new Governor of the Gold Coast Colony has, however, received special instructions on the subject, and will report fully when he has had time to look into the questions at issue.

I am, &c.,
JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 31.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received March 25, 1895.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
MY LORD, February 19, 1895.

I LEFT Cape Coast on the 31st December on my return to Accra. A day or two before my departure a native gentleman who was connected with the local press at the former place called on me to take leave, and stated in the course of conversation that the special messengers from the King of Kumasi had addressed the paper he was interested in, calling upon the editor to produce satisfactory proofs of the statements made in the newspaper relative to the sacrifice of human lives at Kumassi, by Kwaku Dua, the King, at the customs he had celebrated in June last year on his illegal enstoolment, when several hundred persons of both sexes, chiefly those who had been captured from the Nkoranzas, were decapitated. The newspaper was required to give dates, names of people killed, and of eye-witnesses of the occurrences stated, and, failing this, the editor was called upon to publish a letter of apology to the Ashanti nation for

* No. 24.

having libelled them by false statements. In reply, the special messengers were informed that the newspaper adhered unflinchingly to its statements, which the Kumasis knew very well to be strictly true, and pointed out that to state the sources from which the information given was derived would, as they also knew well, be exposing the informants of the paper to the murderous vengeance of the authorities of Kumasi whenever they might have the former in their power.

2. In connexion with the atrocities committed in Ashanti, and mainly so at Kumasi, it appears to me that it may be convenient to place before your Lordship in a connected form in this Despatch the information this Government has collected upon the subject.

3. In my Despatch of the 8th of May last year,* in paragraph 4 it is stated:—

"I asked Mr. Vroom specially with regard to the wish of the Kumasis to 'drive him from their country,' and he stated that he had no doubt whatever that this was their desire; and the reasons he gives are these:—

"First. They did not wish him to be present when the ceremony of placing the King on the golden stool was being proceeded with, as he would thereby see the weakness as regards numbers of the King's adherents, and see his puppets; and in connexion with this—

"Second. That it was most undesirable Mr. Vroom should be in Kumasi on the occasion referred to, because there would undoubtedly be a great sacrifice of slaves on the occasion. Mr. Vroom would be sure to become aware of this, and would thus be a witness against the Ashantis that, in spite of all their protestations to the contrary, they still carried on human sacrifices."

4. In my Despatch of the 21st of May last,† I observed that—

"In the usual weekly returns . . . by the constabulary clerk in charge at Prahsu, under date of 6th May, it is stated he had been informed by a trader named . . . , a native of Kumasi, who had crossed the river into the Protectorate, that the funeral custom of the late sister of King Prempeh, of Kumasi, commenced on Monday last, the 30th April 1894, and that about 50 persons were decapitated for the said funeral custom."

5. In a Despatch dated the 16th of June,‡ I mentioned that Mr. Edmund Bannerman (an old solicitor of this Colony, and an Ashanti by descent and related to the ruling family at Kumasi) had called on me, when I told him (paragraph 3) of the sacrifice of 100 lives which had taken place recently in Kumasi, a number which I had been informed in the first instance was 50; whereupon he stated he had heard it also, and that the reason the number of victims had been increased from 50 to 100 was that two princesses had died.

6. I attach to this Despatch an extract from "The Gold Coast Methodist Times" of the 31st of August, headed "Ashanti," in which, under a sub-head, "A dreadful "slaughter of human victims," it is stated that 400 people were killed in honour of Prempeh's installation as King.

7. I transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, an extract from "The Gold Coast People" newspaper of the 24th September, in which it is stated that "In the "month of June last Prempeh connived at, if he did not order, the butchery of 400 "human beings as sacrifices to his bloody stool. From an eye-witness we have learnt "what atrocious things were done in Coomassie," &c.

8. Mr. Albert Ossoo Ansah having taken exception to the statement made in "The Gold Coast Methodist Times" of the 31st of August, addressed a letter, dated the 25th of September, to the editor of the paper, in which he declared that there was not a particle of truth in the statements made in it, which he could not allow to go uncontradicted. In reply the paper stated:—

"We can assure the Prince (meaning Mr. Ansah) that what we printed was perfectly true. Other informations more fiendish and atrocious have come to our notice. Perhaps it will be better for the Prince to make personal inquiries into these things by going over to Ashanti himself."

I attach to this Despatch an extract from the paper referred to.

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* No. 78 in [C. 7917.]. † No. 80 in [C. 7917.]. ‡ Not printed.

9. In the Accra "Gold Coast Chronicle" of the 30th of November last, dealing with the question of Ashanti, it is asked, *inter alia*,—

"Is the British Government afraid of the Ashantees? If it is not, why should King Prempeh be permitted to do such things with impunity that no other monarch in Western Africa would be suffered to do? . . . It is a reproach, moreover, to the civilisation of this century, than any savage King should be suffered by the British Government to do what King Prempeh is daily doing. In a previous issue we also referred to the periodical slaughter of men, women, and children in Kumasi, and the constant sacrifices, and all notwithstanding the existence of the treaty of Fomanah."

I attach an extract from the paper quoted from.

10. I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter from the officer in command of the Hausa detachment in Kwahu, dated the 13th of December, together with a copy of an enclosure containing information given by an escaped slave, a Hausa, who stated—and his statement was confirmed by another slave who had also escaped—that about the end of November last several persons were sacrificed at Quarmin (Kwamo? an Ashanti town near Kumasi); and also that "some "time ago a Kumasi man died at Quarmin (Kwamo?). His family came about 16 "days ago to Quarmin to get the remains. The same day they bought an old female "slave and sacrificed her there. We saw the headless body of this woman lying in the "street the same day, the head having been taken by the family above-mentioned to "Kumasi, as the custom is."

11. I have also the honour to bring to your Lordship's notice copy of another letter from the officer in command in Kwahu, dated the 25th of December, in which he states, on the authority of a trader "who had been trading for some time past in Ashanti, and "only left Kumasi on the 12th instant (December), where he was a witness of the "custom in memory of General Awua, of Bantama, who was killed during the civil war "between Kumasi and Prince Asibi. This custom was made on or about the 19th of "November by Awua's successor, General Amanquatia, who commanded the Ashanti "army against Nkoranza. On this occasion nine people were sacrificed, eight male "Nkoranza captives, and a daughter of the late King Karri Karri. Prempe was present "at this custom in the evening." Captain Houston mentions other sacrifices which had either been made or were in contemplation.

12. In the report furnished to me by Messrs. Stewart and Vroom, who arrived at Accra on the 5th instant from their recent mission to Kumasi, it is stated—

"While we were in Kumasi, Amanqwatsia's brother died, and we have every reason to believe that several people were sacrificed.

"We also heard that about 20 people had been sacrificed about the first week of December 1894 on the death of one of the King of Kumasi's relations.

"Just outside the King's palace (a mere collection of connected mud huts covered with grass, as I ascertained on inquiry) were nearly a dozen human jawbones and one shinbone lying in the open road. The King must, however, have heard we noticed them, as about four days after our arrival they were removed."

13. I trust your Lordship will pardon me for placing this ghastly record of savage atrocity, barbarity, and reckless sacrifice of human life before you, for I know it will shock you, my Lord; but, all things considered, it has appeared to me that, under existing circumstances, it was my duty to place before your Lordship in a connected form and in chronological order the account contained in this Despatch of the savage, cruel, and ruthless conduct of the King of Kumasi and of those supporting him in his atrocious and murderous career.

I have, &c.
W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 31.

EXTRACT from "The GOLD COAST METHODIST TIMES" of 31st August 1894.

[*See* Enclosure 2 in No. 94 in [C. 7917.].]

Enclosure 2 in No. 31.

EXTRACT from "The GOLD COAST PEOPLE" of 24th September 1894.

* * * * * * *

In the month of June last, Prempe connived at, if he did not order, the butchery of 400 human beings as sacrifices to his bloody stool. From an eye witness we have learnt what atrocious things were done in Coomassie; but we have no wish to pollute our pages with a description of the revolting, cruel, and savage iniquities committed in open day in the streets of the Ashanti capital.

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Enclosure 3 in No. 31.

EXTRACT from "The GOLD COAST METHODIST TIMES" of 29th September 1894.

[*See* Enclosure 2 in No. 97 in [C. 7917.].]

Enclosure 4 in No. 31.

EXTRACT from "The GOLD COAST CHRONICLE," Accra, Friday, November 30, 1894.

ASHANTEE.

So many reports are afloat with regard to Ashantee at present, that one does not really know what he is to believe, although it is universally admitted that the public chest must suffer if something of a decisive character does not take place, as there have been no end of expeditions to the "bush" in late years, and no sooner does one expedition return from Cape Coast than another is sent to the same place, and still we have the greatest unrest conceivable in the interior. What are we all about? Can no one open his mouth and speak? If we were wise in our generation, we would just march our troops direct to Kumasi, and once and for all, put an end to fruitless missions to the interior. If after we reached Kumasi there was the slightest disposition on the part of the Ashantees to fight, we would then be afforded another opportunity of giving King Prempeh and his followers some adequate conception of the resources of civilisation. In plain words, we must go straight to Kumasi and occupy or annex it, declaring Ashantee a British protectorate. A District Commissioner with some 200 or 300 Hausas could be left in Kumasi to ensure the maintenance of order. This, surely, would not be a difficult task for us. In fact, it is almost impossible to understand the infatuation which has led to the local Government so far into so many blunders with regard to Ashantee. To tell the truth, we appear to have been playing with the question of having a firm and vigorous policy in regard to Ashantee all along, and we must be ready to confess this.

We were told last week that Prince John Osoo Ansah was coming down to Cape Coast with some 500 followers on his way to London, but he has not reached the sea-board yet, from what we can gather, and the Governor is now waiting in Cape Coast for him, we believe; and if the information that we received a few days ago is to be relied upon, the Prince in question may suddenly alter his intentions, which would probably imply further waste of public money. There is no spectacle, hardly, more humiliating than this! Here we are being led about like pigs by Ashantees! The latter know full well our most vulnerable or weakest parts. When they wish us to pitch away a few thousands, they simply create some little row, and threaten to do this, that, and the other, and forthwith an expedition is sent to the "bush" to await the turn of events. Certainly we are being fought with weapons of a most amusing description by the Ashantees. The demands on our chest, in consequence of the constantly recurring expeditions, are getting so numerous that before long, at this rate, we shall have very little money left. Possibly the King of Ashantee thinks he can more conveniently injure us by placing us constantly under the necessity of sending expeditions to the interior; and thus contributing towards the ultimate exhaustion of our resources. If every expedition costs, say, 5,000*l.*, 10 must necessarily cost 50,000*l.*, and so on! It is time for us to see that we have not too much money to pitch away. We should like to hear of some demonstration of force which will be final. If there are 800 Hausas in this Colony, send them all to Ashantee with the

Union Jack, and let the whole of that country be declared once and for all a British protectorate in spite of all opposition.

Our interior policy has been throughout a failure, and had the 1883 Administration possessed the good sense to avail itself of the offer that was made, the whole of Ashantee might now be under our flag, and during the past 11 years we should not have heard of fruitless missions and unnecessary expeditions to the "bush" so frequently, for in 1883 the Ashantees expressed a willingness to become British subjects, the King having sent down to the late Governor Rowe to ask whether Her Majesty's Government would effect some arrangements in the matter, and thus put an end to the quarrels, while avoiding all future misunderstanding or unpleasantness. In fact we should not like to assume any responsibility for the acts of the Government in the year in question, for all round we had blunders; and it was just about the same time that Little Popo was also offered to us, but which the Germans, through our want of foresight and supineness, ultimately seized; it is difficult to see how we could have been very alive to our interests in those days, while manifesting so much indifference in matters pertaining to the extension of territory; but whatever we might have done in the past, it is obvious that we are being made now to suffer for it. But we can certainly atone for our past misdeeds by wiser action in the future. Every year has its lessons, and they should not be forgotten. There is however, a fair opportunity now to take Ashantee. Shall we avail ourselves of it, or shall we not? Are we for ever going to remain dead to our interests?

The traders who are living in the regions behind Ashantee would be glad to hear that our flag was in Kumasi, as they could then come right down to the sea-board to trade without any interruption, and be under no necessity to deal with us, as they have hitherto done, through the Ashantees, and the latter have heretofore occupied commercially, the position of "middlemen." The Jebus were made to suffer for acting as "middlemen." And the Ashantees must certainly not be considered as saints when compared with the Jebus. It strikes us forcibly that when the inquiry is really made, there will be found some "balance" in favour of the Jebus, who have never been known to have been half so atrocious as the Ashantees. The Lagos trade was not injured so much as the Gold Coast trade has been by the Ashantees when war was declared against the King of Jebu. Is the British Government afraid of the Ashantees? If it is not, why should King Prempeh be permitted to do such things with impunity that no other monarch in Western Africa would be suffered to do? As middlemen, to continue the indictment, the Ashantees have almost ruined our trade. They are perpetually having wars, too, among themselves, and it comes to this, that they will not, whenever the civil wars break out, come to the coast to trade or allow any of the people living in the regions behind their country to come down. It is a reproach, moreover, to the civilisation of this century, that any savage King should be suffered by the British Government to do what King Prempeh is daily doing. In a previous issue we also referred to the periodical slaughter of men, women, and children in Kumasi, and the constant sacrifices, and all notwithstanding the existence of the Treaty of Fomanah!

Enclosure 5 in No. 31.

Captain DAVIDSON-HOUSTON to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR, Amanforo Kwahu, December 13, 1894.

IN compliance with the request made in paragraph 4 of your unnumbered letter dated September 29th on the subject of Ashanti affairs, I have the honour to forward you, for his Excellency's information, the attached s tatement made to me on the 6th instant at Agogo.

2. From what I could gather from the natives at Agogo, neither Quarmin nor Nsuta are more than a day's march from Agogo if the shortest route be taken.

3. The two men mentioned in the attached statement, Mahama Dankawrah and Bapio Grunshi, are leaving here to-morrow for Accra, with the intention of enlisting in the Hausa force, so that you will be able to obtain from them personally any further information that you may require.

I have, &c.

W. B. DAVIDSON-HOUSTON, Capt. and A. I., O.C. Kwahu Detachment, G.C.C.

The Chief Assistant Colonial Secretary, Victoriaborg, Accra.

MAHAMA DANKAWRAH states :—

About 12 years ago I came from my country (Kawrah) to Attabubu to trade. While there Chief Ali caught me and sold me as a slave to one Kwadjo Mensah at Nsuta. I was there only two days when my master sold me for a pereguan (8*l.*) to one Cucoe Tumfo at Agogo. I was employed by Cucoe trading with the coast, and out of the money I earned my master was able to buy Bapio Grunshi (who is here with me) at Mampon for 8*l.*, about four years ago. After the soldiers came—about three weeks or so—our master asked us to go to Quarmin with him to bring some of his sheep which were at Quarmin back here. We went with him there. When we arrived he took us to the King's house and sold us for 7*l.* each to the King. After the King bought us he put me in irons, but not Bapio, for 12 days. I tried all I could to break the irons, and managed to do so after that time, when I ran away with Bapio to Agogo to Mr. Harri Tenuha. We both want to go to Accra and be soldiers.

2. About two years ago the present Nsuta King's mother died at Konkrompe (near Attabubu), but they did not bring the remains back to Nsuta till a fortnight ago. The day that the remains arrived at the town we heard the beating of the great drum (Tumpang). I was at Quarmin in irons, but Bapio had been sent to Nsuta to bring meat, and was going to see what the matter was, when a man told him that the King would kill him if he went to look on, as he was a stranger, so he did not go. A man told Bapio that it was slaves who were sacrificed on this occasion. He does not know how many, but whenever the Ashantis beat Tumpang, it means that there is to be sacrificing. While I was lying in irons I overheard the executioner in the next room tell a friend that he had just killed seven slaves. The same night I broke my irons, and Bapio and I ran away.

3. Some time ago a Kumasi man died at Quarmin. His family came about 16 days ago to Quarmin to get the remains. The same day they bought an old female slave and sacrificed her there; we saw the headless body of this woman lying in the street the same day, the head having been taken by the family above-mentioned to Kumasi, as the custom is.

Bapio confirmed all the above.

This statement was taken down by me at Agogo on December 6th, 1894.

W. B. DAVIDSON-HOUSTON, Capt. and A.I.

Enclosure 6 in No. 31.

Captain DAVIDSON-HOUSTON to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR, Amanforo Kwahu, December 25, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward you some further information on the subject of Ashanti affairs that I have received since my letter of the 13th instant.

2. Yesterday evening a Domeabra man, who had only just arrived from Kumasi, came to me and related certain matters with which I think it advisable that you should be acquainted without delay, for his Excellency's information.

3. He stated that he has been trading for some time past in Ashanti, and only left Kumasi on the 12th instant, where he was a witness of the custom in memory of General Awua of Bantama, who was killed during the civil war between Kumasi and Prince Asibe. This custom was made on or about Monday, the 19th of November, by Awua's successor, General Amanquartia, who commanded the Ashanti army against Nkoranza. On this occasion nine people were sacrificed, eight male Nkoranza captives and a daughter of the late King Karri Karri. Prempe was present at this custom in the evening. Prince Ansah and the envoys to his Excellency had already left for the coast.

4. When passing through Adadëentem, on his way to Odumase from Kumasi, he was present at a custom there (Adadëentem) on the 17th instant. This custom was made by Chief Abanquah in memory of his uncle, Chief Namprane. One man—a Nkoranza slave—was sacrificed by Chief Abanquah on this date (17th December). Abanquah had bought this man for 3*l.* 6*s.*

5. Another custom is announced to take place at Kanwenease, about two hours from Kumasi, during the last week of January 1895. The Chief of this town is named Osi. and is a relation of Prempe.

6. This man was directed to me by Mr. Kwafo, the Basel Mission Agent at Odumase, who knows him and can vouch for his speaking the truth. He expects to be at Kanwanease for the custom there, and has promised to tell me all particulars on his return here.

I have, &c.
W. B. DAVIDSON-HOUSTON, Captain and A. I.,
O. C. Kwahu Detachment, G.C.C.

No. 32.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received March 29, 1895.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
MY LORD, February 28, 1895.

I THINK it might interest your Lordship to be informed of a statement made by Dr. Forde, Medical Officer in charge of the recent Special Mission to Kumasi, and I therefore venture to place before you a copy of his letter of the 2nd February addressed to the Chief Medical Office at Accra, and would very respectfully request your Lordship's notice of what he states with reference to the water-supply at nearly all of the halting places beyond the Prah and even in Kumasi itself; but I would also especially ask attention to his statement with reference to the insanitary condition of Kumasi, which simply indicates that the inhabitants of that place can live with surroundings which would very quickly destroy the health of Europeans who might have to reside there if the town was not quickly cleansed from its impurities.

2. In connexion with Dr. Forde's statement in the second paragraph of his letter, I would ask reference to Captain Lonsdale's Report, "October 1881 to February 1882," on his mission to Kumasi, Parliamentary Paper (C. 3386) 1882, on page 60 of which it will be seen that he refers to the utility of vultures and hawks at Kumasi when human sacrifices are made. There can be no doubt that many of the latter were carried out between April and December of 1894 at Kumasi.

I have, &c.
W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 32.

Dr. FORDE to the CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.

Colonial Hospital, Cape Coast,
SIR, February 2, 1895.

WITH reference to my late appointment as medical officer attached to the recent special mission to Kumasi, I have the honour to report to you, that, with the exception of one death from pneumonia during our stay at Kumasi, the general health of the officers, Hausas and carriers was very good, the above-mentioned case being the only serious one I had to treat during our absence from the coast; there were the usual cases of leg and foot wounds inflicted by roots of trees and sharp stones during the march; a case of diarrhœa and a few cases of guinea worm and constipation make up the list, which, considering the difficulties due to the extremely bad condition of the road encountered in travelling after we crossed the Prah, is a very small one.

2. I was very agreeably surprised to find that at nearly all our halting places beyond the Prah, the water was exceptionally good, being perfectly clear and sweet, and chiefly obtained from running streams with sandy or gravelly beds, and in some places from springs; in Kumasi itself, the water supply is also good and obtained from similar sources, but the hut accommodation there is the worst I have met with in West Africa, and its sanitary condition is not quite up to the mark; pigs, hawks, vultures, and the sun preventing to some extent its atmosphere becoming positively pestilential.

3. There was a second death, the case of a Hausa who was mysteriously shot on the fourth day of our march from Kumasi; I examined him immediately afterwards and found him quite dead, the charge of leaden slugs (some of which I extracted) entered at an angle the back of the right shoulder, more correctly the scapular region, passing

through the right lung to the heart, fifteen slug wounds in all; the pellets were about double the size of ordinary buckshot. In my opinion, death must have been instantaneous.

I have, &c.
R. M. FORDE,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

The Chief Medical Officer,
Victoriaborg, Accra.

No. 33.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received April 10, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Six special msssengers from King of Kumasi, including both Ansahs, embarked for home by mail steamer "Accra" from Cape Coast Castle 3rd April.

No. 34.

MR. BREW to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 8, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 35.]

Ashanti Embassy, 13, Lennox Gardens, S.W.,
May 6, 1895.

MY LORD,

AT the request of Prince John Ossoo Ansah of Ashanti, I have the honour to announce to your Lordship the arrival here of the Embassy despatched by His Majesty Kwaku Dua III., King of Ashanti, to treat with the Government of Her Britannic Majesty on matters affecting the relations between the Empire of the Queen and his kingdom.

The following compose the Embassy—

Prince John Ossoo Ansah.
Prince Albert Arthur Ossoo Ansah.
Chief Boatin.
Chief Kwaku Foku, Linguist.
Captain Inkrumah, Chamberlain.
Captain Bonnar, Court Crier.
Akempon Dabban, Sword Bearer.
Kojo Tufu, Armour Bearer.

I am further directed to ascertain from your Lordship what day and hour after Wednesday next will be convenient to you for them to make a formal call.

The bearers of this letter are Akempon Dabban, Sword Bearer, and Kojo Tufu, Armour Bearer; they are accompanied by Mr. F. S. Essien, who will act as their interpreter.

I have, &c.
BREW OF DUNQUAH.

No. 35.

COLONIAL OFFICE to MR. BREW.

Downing Street, May 9, 1895.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 6th instant,* reporting the arrival in London of certain persons styling themselves an embassy from the King of Ashanti, and asking when it will be convenient to Lord Ripon for them to call upon him.

In reply I am to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government do not recognize Mr. John Ossoo Ansah and his companions as ambassadors.

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* No. 34.

While at Cape Coast they were distinctly informed by the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, under instructions from Her Majesty's Government, that any message or proposals that they were bringing from the King of Kumasi must be made to the Governor as the Queen's representative in that part of the world; and they were further informed that if they persisted in coming to England they would not be received by the Secretary of State or the Queen.

The reasons for this decision were stated by the Under Secretary of State in the House of Commons on the 14th February, and a copy of his statement is herewith enclosed.

Lord Ripon can therefore only again refer the messengers to the Governor of the Gold Coast, who is in possession of full instructions from Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

Enclosure in No. 35.

STATEMENT by Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, M.P., in the House of Commons, February 14, 1895.

"The King of Kumasi—we do not admit his claim to the title of King of Ashanti—has sent certain messengers to Cape Coast Castle, who have stated that their instructions are to proceed to England to see Her Majesty the Queen. The Governor of the Gold Coast Colony has been instructed to inform them that any communications from the King of Kumasi must come through the Governor; and that, if the messengers proceed to England, they will not be received. The grounds upon which Her Majesty's Government have based these instructions are (1) that the King of Kumasi is not a Chief or ruler of sufficient importance to be allowed to send ambassadors to the Queen, and that, in accordance with custom, she can only treat with him through the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, who is her representative; and (2) that, under any circumstances, Her Majesty could not receive a mission from a ruler who, there is good reason to believe, allows and countenances the practice of human sacrifices. I have to add that, under instructions from Her Majesty's Government, a message was sent to the King of Kumasi by the Governor some months ago requesting the King to accept a British Resident, and laying down certain conditions for the preservation of peace and the abolition of inhuman customs, but stating that his authority and independence would not be further interfered with."

No. 36.

COLONIAL OFFICE to FOREIGN OFFICE.

[*Answered by No.* 40.]

SIR, Downing Street, May 9, 1895.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Ripon to transmit to you, to be laid before the Earl of Kimberley, a copy of a letter* from the so-called Ashanti Embassy, together with a copy of the reply† which has been returned to it.

Lord Ripon thinks that Lord Kimberley will probably reply in similar terms to an application which it is understood has been addressed to his Lordship by the messengers from Kumasi, or will simply refer them to the Colonial Office, as he may prefer.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

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* No. 34. † No. 35.

No. 37.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received May 10, 1895.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
April 8, 1895.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch dated the 15th March last,* containing, for my guidance, instructions relative to the relations between the Government of this Colony and the King of Kumasi.

2. As soon as I find myself in a position to do so I will report fully, as I am instructed to do in paragraph 10 of the Despatch under acknowledgment.

I have, &c.
WILLIAM MAXWELL,
Governor.

No. 38.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received May 10, 1895.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
April 11, 1895.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to supplement my telegram of the 9th instant,† by reporting to your Lordship that the messengers of the King of Kumasi left Cape Coast Castle for Liverpool by the steamer "Accra," on the 3rd April. From the report of the District Commissioner at Cape Coast (a copy of which I have the honour to enclose), it would appear that they have been preceded by one Kofi Asaam, a person of doubtful antecedents.

2. In my predecessor's Despatch of the 16th February,‡ a copy of a correspondence with Mr. J. O. Ansah and others arising out of a claim on the part of his brother Mr. A. A. O. Ansah to immunity from arrest on account of his status as "Ambassador" was forwarded to your Lordship. I have now the honour to forward a copy of the last letter received from the deputation on this subject. It is dated the 30th March, but did not reach Accra until after Messrs. Ansah and their companions had left for England. It is unnecessary to characterise the matter or style of this communication; I will only say that it is consistent with the disrespect shown by them in leaving the Colony a week before my arrival was expected.

I have, &c.
WILLIAM MAXWELL,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 38.

The DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Cape Coast, to the GOVERNOR.

District Commissioner's Office, Cape Coast,
April 4, 1895.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

WITH reference to your telegram of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that J. O. and A. A. Ansah, together with Boatin, Kwaku Fokoo, Inkrumah, and Bordah left for England yesterday by the S.S. "Accra."

I understand that their guide, Mr. Kofi Assam, who has been recently disbarred for mal-practices, left for England by the S.S. "Axim," and, no doubt, will await the arrival of the Ashanti messengers in Liverpool.

I have, &c.
L. N. PEREGRINE,
District Commissioner.

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* No. 25. † No. 33. ‡ No. 28.

Enclosure 2 in No. 38.

Ashanti Embassy, Freemason's Hall, Cape Coast Castle,
March 30, 1895.

SIR,

WE are disagreeably surprised by your letter of 16th ultimo in which, among other things, you say, by direction of his Excellency Sir W. B. Griffith, the Governor of this Colony, that we have not the status claimed by us, and worst of all that his Excellency was so advised.

It is amusing to note that you purposely omitted to give the name of his Excellency's adviser or advisers. Nevertheless, perhaps his Excellency will now be pleased to instruct you to do so; meanwhile may we ask, in anticipation of your complying with the request contained in the last sentence immediately preceding this, the authority upon which his Excellency's adviser gave that advice or the source from whence he gained his information?

Until we are convinced to the contrary, we are bound to consider, the decision altogether insulting as equally as it is provoking, and that, if imagination has not been wilfully drawn upon in this matter, his Excellency undoubtedly has been wrongly led to act on questionable information.

The Ambassadors of his Majesty King Kwaku Dua III. of Ashanti we are, and, as such, we shall remain until our mission shall have been fully carried out, so, however you may otherwise consider us we care not to bewail.

We cannot bring this to a close without mentioning the fact that since our arrival here we have been closely studying his Excellency's policy towards us, and have observed how contemptuously he has been treating individual members of the Embassy, and have satisfied ourselves as to the direction in which it tends, and shall lay same before our royal master, who has invariably treated Her Majesty's officers to his court with unvarying respect and esteem.

We would rather leave it with the civilised world to say whether any person or persons who are the bearers of a message from one party to another, professedly friendly, should be treated other than courteously, gentlemanly, and at least for the time being, as un-amenable to the laws of the land to which they are sent.

Our royal master, we may at once assure you, for the information of his Excellency, is so immoveably desirous of maintaining peace and mutual regard between Ashanti and the Government of the United Kingdom, and to cherish a lasting friendship with the good people of your Government, that no petty annoyances would be allowed to defeat his aim and good will.

We have, &c.

JOHN OSSOO ANSAH, Prince of Ashanti, } Head of Embassy.
A. A. OSSOO ANSAH, P. Ambassador.

their marks.

BUARTIN, Chief, ×
KWAKU FORKU, ×
INKRUMAH, ×
BONNA, ×
AKEMPON DABBAN, × } attached to the Embassy.
KOJO TUFUOR, ×

The Hon. F. M. Hodgson, C.M.G.,
Victoriaborg, Accra.

No. 39.

MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 13, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 41 *and* 54.]

Chamber of Commerce, Manchester,
May 11, 1895.

SIR,

Disturbances in Ashantee.

IN reference to your letter of the 18th February,* in reply to a communication from this Chamber of the 15th of that month, I have the honour to enclose a copy of

* No. 17.

the memorial* of the Cape Coast Chamber of Commerce therein referred to, I am further to ask whether any reply can be made to the representations of the Chamber on this subject.

I have, &c.
ELIJAH HELM,
Secretary.

No. 40.

FOREIGN OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received May 16, 1895.)

SIR, Foreign Office, May 15, 1895.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant,† and to state that his Lordship concurs in the reply which the Marquess of Ripon has returned to the Ashanti envoys now in this country.

A similar application from the envoys has been received by this Department, and Lord Kimberley will, in reply, refer them to the answer returned to their communication by Lord Ripon.

I am, &c.
H. PERCY ANDERSON.

No 41.

COLONIAL OFFICE to MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR, Downing Street, May 20, 1895.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 11th instant‡ forwarding a copy of a memorial addressed to the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony by the Cape Coast Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the injury to trade caused by the unsettled state of affairs in Ashantee and the neighbouring countries. Lord Ripon has not received the memorial in question from Sir B. Griffith, but his Lordship desires me to state that he regrets that the efforts which have been made during the past year to effect an arrangement with Ashantee have not yet had a satisfactory result. The new Governor of the Gold Coast Colony has, however, received special instructions on the subject, and will report fully when he has had time to look into the questions at issue.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 42.

MR. BREW to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received May 23, 1895.)

Ashanti Embassy, 13, Lennox Gardens, S.W.,
SIR, May 22, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant,§ and I am directed by the Ashanti Embassy to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, copy of a despatch which they have this day sent to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the letter addressed to both the Foreign and Colonial Offices on the 6th instant.‖

I have, &c.
BREW OF DUNQUAH.

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* Enclosure 1 in No. 48. † No. 36.
‡ No. 39. § No. 35. ‖ No. 34.

Enclosure in No. 42.

Ashanti Embassy, 13, Lennox Gardens, S.W.,
May 22, 1895.

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letter you were pleased to direct to be forwarded to me on the 18th inst., in reply to mine of the 6th *re* the arrival here of the Embassy from His Majesty Kwaku Dua III. (Prempeh), King of Ashanti, and I note that your Lordship refers me to the reply given by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies in answer to a communication addressed to him on the same subject by me on the date before mentioned, the 6th inst.

As in reply from the Colonial Office the grounds for the refusal to receive the Embassy are set forth, I am directed by the Embassy to lay before you facts which may lead, it is to be hoped, to the reconsideration of the decision come to by Her Majesty's Government.

The right and title of His Majesty Kwaku Dua III. as King of Ashanti is directly raised by Her Majesty's Government, but one can scarcely credit that it is seriously so, in face of his recognition as such by Her Majesty's Government; in support of which statement I respectfully draw your Lordship's attention to the extracts from the Blue Books referred to the enclosure marked A. It would be a deliberate stultification of itself if Her Majesty's Government were now to hold otherwise; for from since the enstooling (coronation, as it would be here termed) of Prempeh on March 26th, 1888, up to December 15th, 1894, His Majesty has always been addressed by Her Majesty's Government (for I apprehend the Government do not repudiate the action of the local authorities in this matter) as King of Ashanti.

Further, Governor Griffith, in his despatch to the King *re* the proposed treaty, addresses him as "His Majesty Kwaku Dua III., King of Ashanti;" the despatch bears date 11th March 1891. In paragraph 42 of that communication Sir W. Brandford Griffith writes:—"Should any objection present itself as to the signing of the treaty "on the ground that this cannot be done in the absence of the Kokofus, Dadiasses, and "others who are in the Protectorate, I think it right to state that I can only recognise "yourself and those Kings, Chiefs and principal men who have remained loyal to you, "as the existing authorities of Ashanti. The heads of other tribes will not be allowed "to return and question your action and that of your supporters to agree to the "arrangement you may enter into by the treaty proposed with this Government."

Beyond this, as late as February 13th, 1894, Mr. F. M. Hodgson, Acting-Governor, in forwarding the draft treaty, to which Mr. Buxton referred as "instructions from Her Majesty's Government," addressed the King as "His Majesty King Kwaku Dua III. of Ashanti," and in the despatch as "King of Ashanti."

There is no King of Kumasi; nor can the Gold Coast Government prove that such a personage exists, nor when anyone was enstooled or crowned "King of Kumasi." Kwaku Dua III. (styled in some official despatches as Kwaka Dua IV.) is King of Ashanti up to the present moment, and as such he cannot recognise the right of Her Majesty's Government, or of any other Government, to style him at their will king of any other place or country.

The second reason assigned is that King Kwaku Dua III. is "a ruler who, there is "good reason to believe, allows and countenances the practice of human sacrifices."

A direct refutation to this is given by the extracts from the same source (Blue Books) marked B.

There is reason, however, to believe that Her Majesty's Government were led to make this statement upon a sensational account of the alleged slaughter of 400 human beings at the coronation of King Kwaku Dua III., which narrative appeared in the "Gold Coast Methodist Times," August 1st, 1894.

It is remarkable that the British officer who was present at the King's coronation should never have heard of this massacre and that he should have written to the Government that human sacrifices had ceased. It is noteworthy that nearly six years should have elapsed ere the story found its way into the columns of that paper, and that no other periodical the world over should have an account of it. But to close the question of this particular incident your Lordship will find in enclosure C. copy of a statement to be found in that very newspaper, dated January 31st, 1895, by which you will perceive that the statement was based upon pure hearsay. Some one had the story from some one, who heard it from some one else, who heard it from some other person, who also had it from somewhere. This is of a piece with a like rumour which appeared in the columns of the "Times," here (11th November 1881), and which was proved, on close investigation, to be baseless.—*Vide* enclosure D.

His Majesty King Kwaku Dua III. abhors human sacrifices as much as anyone in his position can do; and having pledged his word to Her Majesty's Government that he would not permit or countenance human sacrifices, has adhered to his promise and will continue to do so during his reign. He is surrounded by councillors who have instilled into him the abhorrence with which such a cruel custom is regarded by Her Majesty's Government and by all civilised nations, and as it is his heart's desire to promote his country's interest in every way, he is not likely to commit an act which would have a contrary tendency. Thus far your Lordship will perceive that his Majesty neither allows nor countenances human sacrifices, and that there is no truth in the alleged slaughter of human beings. One cannot, however, refrain from asking how this account got into the local paper at the time when delicate negotations were being carried on by the Gold Coast Government with the King. It has had the effect of alienating sympathy from the King and has been fraught with mischief, for which the editors and proprietors of the paper will be called to account in the Courts of the Gold Coast Colony on the homeward journey of the Embassy.

Her Majesty's Government have heretofore received Ambassadors from the Kings of Ashanti and have recognised them as such, although no Embassy prior to the present one has ever been despatched direct to England. This fact is sufficiently established by enclosure E.

To touch but slightly on this point, one Joseph Dupuis was dispatched by the Foreign Office in 1818 to the then King of Ashanti "to be British Consul and Agent at Kumasi," and on his return to Cape Coast Castle he was accompanied by an Embassy from the King Osai Tutu Kwamin (Ossai Asibey), bringing presents from him to King George III., but they were refused passage by Sir George Collier, the officer commanding the British West African Squadron, who gave as reason for his refusal that by a standing order of the Lords of the Admiralty he was expressly interdicted from carrying away any of the natives and that his Commission was afloat and he had no authority to act on shore. Dupuis begged Sir George Collier to reconsider his decision, adding, "the King of "Ashanti is so perfectly disposed to co-operate in all things for the promotion of the "mercantile interests of Great Britain that if the present opportunity is suffered to "escape us it may be the means of crushing, at a single blow, all future advancement "towards commerce, or the cultivation and civilisation of this part of Africa." How clearly Dupuis pierced into the future subsequent events disclosed and the present position bears out.

The members composing the present Embassy are all of importance.

Chief Kwarmin Boatin has previously been received by the Gold Coast Government as an ambassador from the present King of Ashanti, and is one of the most powerful Chiefs of the Kingdom.

Chief Kwaku Foku is the son and successor of Prince Buaki Tinti, who was sent as Ambassador to the Gold Coast Government during the "Ashanti Scare of 1881," when the late Sir Samuel Rowe was Governor of the Colony; and he is one of the principal Linguists of the King.

Capt. Inkrumah, Capt. Bonnar, Akempon Dabban, and Kojo Tufuor, are all members of the King's Court; Akempon Dabban has been a member of one or two Embassies to the Gold Coast Government.

The two Princes of Ashanti, Prince John Ossoo-Ansah and Prince Albert Arthur Ossoo-Ansah, are the legitimate children of the late Prince John Ossoo-Ansah, who was sent here in 1834, with his cousin Prince Quantamissah, was educated here, and was present at Her Majesty's Coronation, and to whom her Majesty granted a personal allowance. Their genealogical tree, as taken from Blue Book C.—4052, 1884, your Lordship will find in enclosure F.

The fact that they were at any time in the service of the Gold Coast Government is no reason for the refusal to recognise their rank and position as Princes of Ashanti, for such they are by birth, and cannot be aught else, and Her Majesty's Government cannot be so ungenerous as to refuse them recognition as such.

His Majesty seeks close union with Great Britain and his desire cannot be better expressed than in the words of Dupuis before quoted.

The Embassy was charged with a mission from their King direct to Her Majesty and her Government, and although the Governor of the Gold Coast informed them that they would not be received here, still, in accordance with the command of their King, they were bound to proceed hither, as they could not carry on any negotiations with the representative of Her Majesty against whom their King had cause of complaint, which he, as an independent sovereign, desired to lay, amongst other more important matters, before Her Majesty's Government.

Under the circumstances it will be deplorable if Her Majesty's Government still refuse to give the Embassy the recognition they claim, and are entitled to, and will not afford them facilities for seeing something of the grandeur, might, and power of the kingdom, so that they can carry away with them for their King's information the effect of what they have seen, and the advantages a close alliance with Her Majesty's Government would bring to his country and people.

The object of the mission is entirely pacific, and is of a character which deserves a hearing, now they are here, at the hands of Her Majesty's Government, whatever may be their decision after receiving them.

By direction of the Embassy a copy of this communication is being forwarded to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.

BREW OF DUNQUAH.

RECOGNITION AS KING OF ASHANTI.

Blue Book.—C.—5615.

Page 2.

No. 3.

From Sir W. B. GRIFFITH to Lord KNUTFORD.

(Received May 3rd, 1888.)

24th Dec., 1887.
27th Jan., 1888.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
April 2, 1888.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my despatches of the dates noted in the margin, I have the honour to report that I have sent to you this day the following telegraphic despatch :—

"Prempeh enstooled Coomassie, 26th March."

2. I despatched this telegram in consequence of the receipt this morning of the subjoined telegram from the District Commissioner at Cape Coast :—

"Have just received the following message from Mr. Barnett for your Excellency, Prempeh was stooled at midnight 26th March ; letter follow in a day."

3. I hope to be able to transmit to you a report of my proceedings in connection with Ashanti affairs by next mail.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Page 9.

No. 5.

Sir W. B. GRIFFITH to Lord KNUTSFORD.

(Received May 21st, 1888.)

(Extract.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
April 13, 1888.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 27th January last, in which I informed your Lordship that, although I had often stated to Captain Lonsdale that I wished to receive a report from him upon his proceedings in Ashanti, I had not succeeded in obtaining it, I have now the honour to refer to my despatch of the 3rd instant informing you that on the 2nd instant I transmitted to your Lordship a telegram stating that Prempeh had been enstooled at Coomassie on the 26th March. (pp. 4.) Captain Lonsdale arrived at Accra on the 3rd of January 1887, and I despatched him a few days afterwards to proceed to Sefwhi by way of Cape Coast, on a mission which I directed him to undertake to the authorities of that country. In the last paragraph of my instructions to him it was stated: "I request you will push on as rapidly as will be consistent with the

" successful working of this mission, in order that you may be available for service in " Ashanti in case of need, as I have promised to send a European officer to Coomassie " to be present at the placing of the King on the throne when a majority of the Chiefs " and people of the country have decided on a successor to the late Quacoe Duah."

Page 10.

Pp. 2 and 3.

On the 9th June following, Colonel White wrote to Captain Lonsdale from Cape Coast, where he was residing, mentioning that he had heard of the total defeat of the Becquais by the Kokofus, and stating, "It seems to me that this decisive victory of " Kokofus has placed them in power as the dominant party in Ashanti. If so, I believe " it to be my duty to at once seize this opportunity as a favourable one for attempts, " first to endeavour to stay all further fighting between the tribes, and secondly to " mediate in a friendly manner with a view to the establishment of a central authority " in Ashanti. If such a moment has arrived, I should select you accordingly to " proceed on this mission, and I anxiously await your report called for in my letter of " the 1st instant, and I shall also be glad of free expression of your opinion on any " matter connected with this proposed mediation."

On the 22nd of June, Colonel White wrote again to Captain Lonsdale as follows:— " With reference to our former correspondence upon the subject of the state of affairs " in Ashanti, I have decided that an effort should be made at once by this Government " to effect a cessation of hostilities and the establishment, *by consent of the parties* " *concerned*, of a central Government in that country. I select you to conduct the " necessary negotiations, and I have every confidence that, from your knowledge of the " existing state of affairs in Ashanti and the experience of that country which you " possess, you will succeed if success is possible. I am of opinion that you should " commence operations by sending trustworthy messengers to the influential Chiefs on " each side explaining my desire for the restoration of peace, and adding that I have " sent you to offer your advice and assistance in procuring an understanding between " them; but that they must clearly understand that this Government is only actuated " by a desire to put an end to the unhappy existing state of affairs, and, while prepared " to recognise any form of government upon which they may agree, does not in any " way wish to interfere with their right of choice, and until all parties have expressed " their willingness to accept your assistance and have ceased from hostilities you will " be unable to visit them. Your conduct must be influenced by the replies you will " receive, but I must impress upon you that you must not enter Ashanti until you have " good reason to know that your presence will be acceptable."

Page 11.

Pp. 3.

Writing again to Captain Lonsdale on the 5th of August, Colonel White informed him that on the 29th of July he had had an interview with Quamin Owusu and Quabina Asafu, messengers from the King of Kokofu; that the messengers recapitulated the vacillating results of the intestinal feuds in Ashanti before introducing the more important part of their message, which was to the effect that most of the tribes in Ashanti were now at peace with each other, that the King of Kokofu was at Ajaman waiting for a white officer to come and assist them in putting a King on the stool, and that the Ashanti tribes of Insutah, Manpon, Aguna, Koranza, and Awuah of Bantama, representing Quarsu, Kuntenansee, Gyartee, Osiennifor, Oure, Arbannassi, Appumasse, Gissoo, &c., had taken the great Fetish oath at Odassu, by which they had declared their intention of ceasing from further fighting.

Pages 14 and 15.

Pp. 4 and 5.

In a letter I addressed to Mr. Barnett on the 13th of February 1888, I acknowledged the receipt of various letters from him, in one of which he referred to the expectation of the representatives of Ashanti, with the exception of Kokofu, to know what steps were to be taken to put a King on the "stool." With regard to this inquiry I directed him to inform them "that this was a matter which rested with themselves," that in 1886 I sent "Mr. Badger to Kumasi, Kokofu, and Baecquai to state to the authorities "of those places that whenever a majority of the people should choose a man to be "their King this Government would, if they desired it, send a British officer to be "present on the occasion of his being placed on the stool; that this Government had "no wish whatever to influence their choice, and that it would be prepared to recognise "as their King any person whom they selected to fill that position." I informed Mr. Barnett that this had been, and still continued to be, the policy of this Government, and that he must impress the fact upon the authorities in Ashanti.

Furthermore, feeling that I must gain information as to the precise position of affairs, and that I was not justified in remaining further in the dark, and even if I had to proceed to Ashanti in person to obtain the necessary intelligence. On the morning of my departure on the 13th February on a visit to the eastern portion of the Colony, I wrote to Mr. Barnett asking him to let me know if he considered that any useful result would follow my being present at the installation of a King in Ashanti, and requested him, in reporting upon this point, to explain the grounds of any opinion he might form upon it sufficiently fully to justify me also in coming to a decision on the matter; and I also requested him to mention how long it would take to get the Ashantis together for the purpose; and in another letter, dated at Quittah, on the 15th February, I requested him, in connexion with what was stated in my previous letter of the 13th idem, to take into consideration the fact that the rainy season was approaching, and that I was anxious on account of the health of both Dr. Sullivan and himself, and the health of the large force under his command. I also stated that I should be glad to learn the immediate consequences which were likely to ensue from the withdrawal of this detachment from Ashanti towards the end of April next, concluding with the remark that "It might, I think, be wise to let the Ashantis furthermore understand at "the same time that the Government of the Gold Coast would decline to be repre-"sented at the enstooling of a King who would not undertake to promote these objects, "viz., the composition of existing differences and the safety of the trade routes, and to "do his best towards putting a stop in future to the barbarous sacrifices and cruelties "which there is too much reason to suppose may otherwise continue to disgrace the "Ashanti rule."

Page 15.

P. 8.

With regard to the remarks which Mr. Barnett has made as to the necessity for an officer remaining at Coomassie for some time after the settlement of affairs, I stated in a letter to him of the 20th of March, that the Government of Ashanti should be able to, or at all events must, take care of itself after the election of a king, as I would not risk the life of a European officer, especially at this season, in order to support a ruler who having been elected by a majority of his people, ought to be able to maintain order in his own country, and I emphasised my views by concluding with the following words, "whom I trust you will have so cautioned in advance against measures of vengeance "towards those who had been opposed to his election that he may not be guilty of the "barbarous and inhuman conduct you appear to think it likely that he may exhibit "hereafter."

Page 16.

P. 2.

Notwithstanding all that Mr. Barnett had written about the state of preparation in which the Ashantis were for the election of a King, in a letter dated 24th of March, he stated that on the 17th instant he had sent to the principal tribes in Ashanti informing them that he had arrived in Coomassie, but that up to that time (24th March) none of their people had arrived, though they all said they were coming, and he continued,

" hesitation, procrastination, and double dealings synonymous with the name Ashanti." He also made a statement which, in my view, shows the correctness of the determination at which I had arrived, as stated in my letter of 2nd April, that he was to leave Ashanti on the 10th of that month, whether a King had been elected or not. This statement was :—

" Since my arrival at Coomassie I have thoroughly impressed on the representatives attached to the Mission (which means to their different Kings) your Excellency's imperative order as to my returning not later than the 10th of April. Owing to this they are doing all they know to settle and elect a King by the 27th instant, which is the only day they say will suit till next Big Adai, which falls on the 27th April. I have been asked to postpone my departure, but this I tell them is impossible."

Page 18.

Pp. 7 and 8.

7. Owing to the state of Captain Lonsdale's health, which I regret to inform you will necessitate his proceeding upon leave of absence to England, I have been unable to obtain from him any account of the action which he has taken in Ashanti, and I am therefore as yet unable to convey to you any detailed instructions on the point. I have, however, to instruct you to be particularly cautious not to commit yourself or the Government to any special line of policy in the affairs of Ashanti. Your action should consist in endeavouring, as I perceive from your letter, with approval, you are now doing, to prevent bloodshed, to keep the trade routes open, and to restore confidence among the different tribes, and assist them by your advice and good offices towards the election of a King by the unanimous choice of all parties, if they invite you to do so. I take this opportunity of enclosing, for your information and guidance, an extract of a Despatch from the Secretary of State, in which it is laid down that the King, when elected, is not to expect the Colonial Government as in any way committed to render him material support or assistance.

8. I note that you state your opinion that until a King is placed upon the stool, hostilities may break out any day, and even then that unless some sign is shown by the British Government of upholding the King, the whole question, from what you can see, would be re-opened; but the instructions of the Secretary of State must be adhered to, and I have thought it advisable to communicate them to you without further delay. I observe that on the 21st November you informed the King of Mampon that you would have a say as to the election or otherwise of Prempeh by Awuah as King, but I am aware of no authority having been given to Captain Lonsdale for such a statement, the line of action of the Government having been only to act upon a unanimous application from the different tribes to their representative to place a King, elected with the consent of all parties, on the Stool.

Page 25.

No. 12.

P. 4.

4. You will inform them that this is a matter which rests with themselves, that in 1886 I sent Mr. Badger to Kumasi, Kokofu, and Becquai, to state to the authorities of those places that whenever a majority of the people should choose a man to be their King, this Government would, if they desired it, send a British officer to be present on the occasion of his being placed on the stool; that this Government has no wish whatever to influence their choice, and that it will be prepared to recognise as their King any person whom they shall select to fill that position. This has been, and still continues to be, the policy of this Government, and you must impress the fact upon the people.

Page 26.

P. 13.

13. I learn with regret the death of the Princess Royal of Ashanti, who, I believe, is the mother of Prince Prempeh. I send you herewith a copy of a telegram which I received from the District Commissioner at Cape Coast on the subject. Her death

will probably have great influence upon the political affairs in Ashanti, and, from what you state, will probably give a preponderance to the party of Kokofu; but you are carefully to abstain from interference in the political affairs of the country. What this Government desires is that the Ashantis should agree amongst themselves upon some person to be their King, so that peace and security may exist in their country, and their roads may be kept open to traders from all parts.

Page 30.

Pp. 1 and 2.

With reference to your Excellency's confidential letter, unnumbered, of the 13th instant, received this day, I have the honour to inform you that, as I remarked in my letter of the 31st January, paragraph 8, I was absent from Captain Lonsdale most of the time while he was up here, and am therefore not well up in what took place during my absence. Your Excellency must excuse me if I have mistaken what the policy of Captain Lonsdale conveyed, but to my mind, from beginning to end, it was one of mediation, arbitration, and advice, without in any way involving the British Government in any responsibility, and taking this as my cue I have adopted the same policy.

2. The Ashantis (unwillingly) thoroughly recognise that our object from beginning to end is to establish peace, but in no way to take any part in the election of a King, and moreover, when a King is elected, he will receive no support from the British Government should he become involved with his tributary Chiefs. But at the same time the Government are prepared to recognise as King of Ashanti, the person whom they may elect to place on the Stool.

5. Looking at your Excellency's visit from a political point of view, I need hardly say that your presence would most certainly have a very imposing and moral effect upon the Ashanti mind, and in the event of any verbal dispute at the election, your advice would naturally have enormous weight. The elected person will assume the reins of Government almost simultaneously with his election, so that if you thought fit to come for the installation your Excellency would be equally there for the election. The Kings and Chiefs are all ready and waiting to proceed to Kumasi; they are trying to urge me to come without delay, and mention the 5th March, between that day and the 16th March, which by their "lares et penates," is the best time for the celebration of such an event. It may be information for your Excellency, and have important bearings on your decision, when I inform you that there has in the known history of Ashantee never been such an election. Previously there were three hereditary heirs, so that if one died there was another to replace him, when a formal election took place. As I have before said to your Excellency, the following are the points which I took into consideration:— (1) Fomenah is no good, Kumasi is the one and only place where a King can be elected and placed on the Stool. (2) That if your Excellency did see fit to come here an amicable settlement would be more easily arrived at, owing to your position and the weight of your advice. (3) Having visited Ashanti your Excellency would see and learn the wishes of the Ashantis and the present position more fully than I could explain.

Page 37.

Pp. 5 and 6.

5. I trust that by this time your anticipation and expectations with regard to a King being placed on the Stool of Ashanti have been realised. It is a matter of indifference to this Government who the individual elected as King may be so long as he commands the support of the great majority of the people of Ashanti.

6. I note your remarks with regard to an officer remaining at Coomassie for some time after the settlement of affairs; but the Government of Ashanti should be able to, and at all events must, take care of itself after the election of a King, as I cannot risk the life of a European officer, especially at this season, in order to support a ruler who having been elected by a majority of his people ought to be able to maintain order in his own dominions, and whom I trust you will have so cautioned in advance against measures of

vengeance towards those who had been opposed to his election that he may not be guilty of the barbarous and inhuman conduct you appear to think it likely that he may exhibit hereafter.

Page 40.

Pp. 2 and 4.

2. I observe that you again express the opinion that an officer should remain at Coomassie after the election of the King, but you have already been made acquainted with my decision upon this point.

4. You have been instructed to impress upon the King of Ashanti, who is to be elected, the desire of this Government that he should keep his roads open, so that traders may travel to and fro without molestation of any kind.

P.S.—Since this letter was written, I have inquired by telegram of the District Commissioner at Cape Coast whether he had received any news from you, or had heard how affairs were progressing in Ashanti. In reply, he states that he had just received a telegram in which you requested him to inform me of Prempeh's election as King of Ashanti on 26th March at midnight. I am glad to hear of this, and trust he will prove a wise and prudent ruler, and a friendly neighbour, and that he will have a long and prosperous reign. You will tell him that he must do all in his power to protect traders, and by good roads to attract enterprise and wealth to his country, as thereby he and his people will be prosperous.

Page 42.

BARNETT to GOVERNOR.

Pp. 1.

1. That Prempeh, now known as Quaku Duah, Princess Yah Kiah's son, was elected King and handed over to the Linguists, to whom he paid, according to custom, 60 periguins of gold dust.

15. To-day, according to what Awah had stated, all prisoners, political and otherwise, have been released. This was in honour of the new King.

Page 144.

The GOVERNOR to LORD KNUTSFORD.

July 12, 1888.

4. Now that Kokofus together with their King, who stood in the way of every attempt to restore peace in Ashanti, have been driven out of that country, I entertain the hope that King Quacco Duah will be able to consolidate the various sections in Ashanti, maintain his position, and keep his country in order, so as to bring about a settled state of affairs, and give the country the opportunity of making efforts to regain some of its former prosperity. The newly elected King has had the moral, indeed, I may say the material, support of this Government, by its action in regard to the imprisonment of Yon Awuah, the Kokofu agent at Cape Coast, the dismissal of the unworthy Government Interpreter Davies, the stoppage of the Prah Road, which prevented the Kokofus resorting to the coast for arms and ammunition, and the prohibition of the sale of these, which appears to have led to the recent Kokofu defeat, owing to the exhaustion of their supply of gunpowder.

5. It appears to me after giving very anxious thought to the subject, that we cannot at present do greater service to the young King of Ashanti and his people than by leaving them alone, so that they may recover themselves from the state of apprehension, perplexity, friction and embarrassment, which has been their chronic condition for some years past, and gain confidence in their unity, and learn to be self-reliant. For these reasons, I consider that it is undesirable that Ashanti should be visited by an officer of this

Government during the current year, unless an invitation to that effect should emanate from the King, and then the question would have to be carefully dealt with according to the circumstances indicating the grounds upon which the request was made.

Page 145.

Pp. 3 and 4.

The GOVERNOR to LORD KNUTSFORD.

July 12th, 1888.

3. In a letter from the District Commissioner at Cape Coast, dated 6th July, a further communication was forwarded from the clerk at Prahsue under date of the 3rd, in which he mentions that two messengers had arrived at Prashue, with four followers from the King of Bekwai, to report for my information statements corresponding in a great measure with those previously made by the clerk in his letters, the latter adding that the victorious party had sent armed detachments in various directions to capture Adansi and Kokofu "runaways," and had caught the whole of them at the villages of Attawasie, Quanta, and Booddayasie, and that "the messengers state further that the "King of Kumasi will send special messengers to report fully to his Excellency, "accompanied by a lot of traders after King Essibay will be caught, as the King of "Kumasi has determined to make him prisoner, and upon his honour he shall carry his "promise to his Excellency."

4. On the 6th instant a Court Crier to the King of Ashanti arrived at Accra with a message to the effect that Kwaku Dua sent to inform me that since he was put on the Stool, the King of Kokofu had expressed his disappointment, and had been giving trouble by fighting with the King of Bekwai, whom he had defeated, and that he intended to proceed to Kumasi. The King had, therefore, sent to beg that I would interfere by asking the King of Kokofu to withdraw his army. The messengers had left Ashanti before the last decisive engagement with the Kokofu had occurred, and they were wild with delight on hearing of the defeat of their opponents.

Page 157.

Enclosure No. 37.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Cape Coast, to the GOVERNOR.

August 9th, 1888.

Ambassadors from the King of Ashanti and from the Kings of Becquah and Eguisue arrived here last night, and had an interview with me this morning. They tell me substantially what your Excellency already knows from the letters I have forwarded from Prahsue. The King of Kokofu is in Akin, in the Protectorate, and is plotting from there against the peace of Ashantee. They therefore desire the Government to have him deported. The ambassadors are proceeding to Accra to see your Excellency personally. They will probably start to-day. A large number of traders accompanied them to the coast. They report that the King of Ashanti and the Kings of Becquah, and Eguisue, are very anxious to have the roads opened for trade and to be friendly with the British.

Page 158.

No. 38.

Sir W. B. GRIFFITH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

August 20, 1888.

In continuation of my Despatch of the 9th instant, in connexion with the arrival at Cape Coast of messengers from Ashanti, and referring to the alleged conduct of the King of Kokofu in the Protectorate, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a letter from the District Commissioner of Cape Coast, in which he mentions the substance of an interview which he had with the messengers, or as he terms them, ambassadors, referred to, and which is somewhat interesting, as the Ashantis gave an account of what had occurred in Ashanti since the withdrawal of the Government force. They stated also the fear of their King that "Essibey," as they name the refugee King of Kokofu in Akim, "will procure powder "and arms, and by sending small bodies of men across the Prah will block the roads "and kill the traders coming down to the coast to trade, and will also from his secure "position in Akim continue to plot against the peace of Ashanti. King Quacoe "Duah IV. therefore asks that the British Government should take steps to remove, "and, if necessary, to deport Essibey, as he is at present in the Protectorate." The ambassadors informed the Commissioner that they intended setting out at once for Accra, but I have not yet heard of their arrival here.

3. In consequence of the statement made by the ambassadors from Ashanti, and from information received from a private source, I consider it advisable to despatch Assistant Inspector Akers on a mission to Insabang, Insuaim, and, if necessary, which I left Mr. Akers to determine, to Assin, to ascertain certain particulars relative to the refugee Kokofus who had been driven into the Protectorate. I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the instructions furnished to Mr. Akers for his guidance. He started from Accra on the 16th instant, and the next day I transmitted the following telegraphic message, in code, to meet him at Winnebah in order to its supplying a deficiency which I noticed subsequently in the instructions to Mr. Akers, and which, in his case, I considered necessary :—"I must urge on you that "it is absolutely necessary that you should proceed with judgment, and act with caution "as to your special mission. Do not go beyond your instructions. Should there be "difficulties in the way, refer for instructions, suspend action till further instructions "arrive from me."

Page 165.

P. 2.

The GOVERNOR to INSPECTOR AKERS.

August 27, 1888.

2. In an interview which I had a few days ago with some messengers sent specially by the King of Ashanti, they informed me that the King of Kokofu was without ammunition; and that when he entered the Protectorate he was accompanied by 3,000 armed men. The Ashantis could not tell me how many women and children came into the Protectorate at the same time, but they said that the whole population of Kokofu had passed into the Protectorate. They also stated that in the last battle which preceded the exodus of the Kokofus from Ashanti, the King of Ashanti's army had taken 300 Sniders from the Kokofus; that the Kokofus with Assibey had now only about 100 Sniders with them; that the majority of the men had left their arms with the King of Kokofu and had dispersed in various directions in consequence of the scarcity of food in Kotoko. The messengers said that the Kokofus had very little ammunition and that the men who had dispersed had all left their arms with the King of Kokofu at Tribi, where he was staying. They also stated that the object of the King of Kokofu is to send raiding parties along the road to Kokofu to Prahsue to dispoil and kill traders.

Page 168.

Pp. 5 and 6.

Enclosure 5 in No. 41.

The Governor to King Boateng of Okwawu.

September 3rd, 1888.

5. What the King of Mampon should do is, to submit himself to his lawful sovereign, King Kwaku Dua the IV. Some time ago, at the request of the people of Ashanti, this Government, acting under direction of the Queen's Government in England, sent a white officer to be present at the placing on the Stool at Kumasi of a King to be elected by the Ashantis. This Government did not interfere in the election but appeared by its officer in order to show its respect to, and friendly feeling for, Ashanti. The selection of the King fell upon Prempeh, now called Kwaku Dua IV. He was properly placed upon the Stool. I regard him as King of Ashanti, and I shall not treat with any other person or persons connected with Ashanti, except through him, and therefore I repeat, that what the King of Mampon should do is, to submit himself to his lawful sovereign. There can be no shame felt at doing what is right.

6. It is not the intention of this Government to interfere in any way with Ashanti. If Ashantis come into the Protectorate for refuge and protection, they will be free to do so, and will be under the same laws, and receive the same protection as the people who are already in the Protectorate. At the same time, this Government will not permit any refugees who come into English territory to shelter themselves under its flag to abuse the hospitality and protection of this Government by going out of the Protectorate and attacking the Government of Ashanti, as constituted under King Kwaku Dua IV., whom this Government is on friendly terms with.

Page 169.

No. 42.

Lord Knutsford to Sir W. B. Griffith.

September 26th, 1888.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches of the dates noted in the margin, relating to the affairs of Ashanti, and reporting the steps you have taken in consequence of the flight into the Protectorate of the ex-King of Kokofu and his people.

8th August 1888.
9th August 1888.
20th August 1888.

I have to express my approval of the instructions you gave to Mr. Akers when despatching him on a mission to Insabang, Insuaim, and, if necessary, Assin, copy of which was enclosed in your despatch of 20th August.

You will no doubt consider whether it is advisable and practicable to disarm the refugee Kokofus who have taken shelter within the Protectorate.

Page 170.

No. 44.

Lord Knutsford to Sir W. B. Griffith.

October 8th, 1888.

I have received your despatch of 4th ultimo, relating to Ashanti affairs and the position of the Kokofus in Western Akim, and I have to express my approval of Mr. Akers's proceedings, and of the reply which you returned to the letter addressed to you by the King of Quahoo.

B.

HUMAN SACRIFICES.

BLUE BOOK C. 5615

Page 122.

Pp. 1 and 4.

Mr. BARNETT to the GOVERNOR.

May 9th, 1888.

"WITH reference to human sacrifices I certainly believe that none have taken place at Kumasi for some time past, as I have made a special point of inquiring from Mahomedans, slaves, and others. Another thing which leads me to think that they have given up the horrible practice, is that the absence of vultures is noticeable, and not as in Captain Lonsdale's time, which he mentions in his report.

"The King of Ashanti and Awuah of Bantama have pledged me their words that for some time past no sacrifices have taken place, and for the future none shall take place."

C.

EXTRACT from the "GOLD COAST METHODIST TIMES."

February 28th, 1895.

NOTICE.

Our kind friends will please take notice that after this issue, the publication of this journal will be suspended, *sine die*, until we have access to our own press and materials duly, set up and ready for use, in the Mission House, Cape Coast Castle.

We take this opportunity, however, of thanking most cordially, our readers whose unstinted patronage and good wishes have been our stay and support during the twelve months we have been humbly endeavouring to serve them. We hope, by God's grace, to return with renewed zeal to the work, which has already done something towards the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom. The blessing of the Almighty be yours and ours now and alway.

Eds. G. C. M. T.

C.

EXTRACT from the "GOLD COAST METHODIST TIMES."

September 29th, 1894.

EDITORIAL LETTER BOX.

SIR,

RE your issue dated August 31st, in an Article headed "Ashanti," you observe there has been dreadful slaughtering of human beings in Ashanti in connexion with the coronation of the present King.

I must at once write to deny this fact, for since the above publication I have made every inquiry and have found out that but for the national rejoicings in June attendant on every such occasion at the capital nothing beyond this had taken place. And I write this at once because as a prince of that country I cannot allow such a fabrication, since that there's not a particle of truth in it, to pass un-contradicted. I consider it a pure bogus-trumped up business to get the Christian world against our nationality, but readers of Gold Coast papers should remember that some time in the eighties similar scurrilous prints were circulated to the effect that the ex-King Mensah had caused to be slaughtered over 300 (three hundred) young virgins for the purpose of utilising their blood in repairing a Royal sepulchre, and which caused great commotion and was re-copied into several English papers, but on official inquiring by the local Government, this report was found to be pure myth.

Happily the sacrifices of days gone by have long been done away with, and for the present only persons who are tried and found to be murderers and conspirators suffer the capital punishment. The administration of justice is impartially administered, and this cannot be denied by any Gold Coast native.

Yours truly,
A. A. Ossoo Ansah P.

Axim, September 25, 1894.

(We are pleased to receive the above correspondence from the Prince. He writes as only a Prince can write on a subject like this; the letter further shows a deal of interest in the welfare of his country. We trust he will use all his civilized influence to stamp out that fiendish custom in his great country, a custom which seems to us to be about the only stain on the otherwise great Kingdom of Ashanti. Perhaps as the means of punishing murderers, or those found guilty of high treason, and such kindred crimes, it may be justifiable, taking it to be somewhat equivalent to the hanging of the civilized world; but such a wholesale butchery of human beings we must expose and resolutely condemn. The Prince might have made inquiries and found out that *something* was not true, but we may respectfully inform him that what did appear in our columns to which he refers was not a "bogus-trumped up business" to get the Christian world against his nationality, a nation we greatly respect and admire. We can assure the Prince that what *we* printed was perfectly true: other informations more fiendish and atrocious have since come to our knowledge. Perhaps it will be better for the Prince to make personal inquiries into these things by going over to Ashanti himself.—G.C.M.T. Eds.).

C.

Extract from the "Gold Coast Methodist Times."

Friday, August 31, 1894.

Ashanti.

(From a Correspondent.)

Coronation of Prempeh. Magnificent Display of Royalty.

On the 4th of June last, Prempeh, who had been elected to the Stool in 1888, was formally installed King of Ashanti and placed on the Golden Stool, amidst magnificent display of royalty at the Ashanti metropolis. The election of Prempeh, some six years ago, occasioned much serious contention and bloodshed in the kingdom, which led one of its principal Chiefs, Osai Esibey of Kokofu, to quit his district and flee to the Protectorate. Among the influential Chiefs present at Kumasi on the grand day mentioned, were Asafu Buakyi Bantuma Ewua, Etsia Yaw Buakyi of Bekwai, and Yaw Sapon of Dwabin who turned up in state, making Kumasi look like on some memorable days gone by. After the coronation festivities, the Chiefs and King with his Counsellors are said to have devoted full two weeks to deliberations as to how order and peace could be restored in the kingdom, and Ashanti regain its past glory and renown. The assembly dispersed about the 24th of June; it having been agreed to levy from the nation an amount of money to send to the British Government for the giving back to the kingdom of Esibey of Kokofu and Nkansa of Adansi, Chiefs who have taken refuge in the Protectorate. To this end 40 peregrines (324*l.*) was to be raised by each of the great Chiefs in their various districts.

A dreadful slaughter of human victims.—It being customary with the new King of Ashanti, on his enthronement to observe a general funeral custom for royal relatives deceased, Primpeh also being now installed, kept the hereditary custom by slaying some 400 human beings in cold blood in honour of the royal dead, each of his Chiefs bringing him presents of human victims from their provinces, except the Chief of Bekwai, who brought gold dust instead of human victims, stating his intention to conform to British custom and practice, for, said he, "My ancestors did not prosper by their human "sacrifices, and I am determined not to follow their practices."

C.

EXTRACT from the "GOLD COAST METHODIST TIMES."

January 31st, 1895.

SIR,

I AM sending you for publication copy of a letter I read to His Excellency Governor Griffith, at the interview on the 15th instant; I leave the public to decide the question raised in that communication, for it was a surprise to me to note that His Excellency, occupying such an exalted position, should have considered it worth his while to descend into personalities. It cannot pay him.

I consider it also within my competence to here refer to the alleged Ashantian atrocities, of which so much has been made of, and must here ask you to reply to the following queries conscientiously before God and man.

Re your Article—Ashanti—of August 31st.

1. I must ask whether that communication was sent in to your office by a letter written in Ashanti, or given you verbally at Cape Coast as news from your correspondent and committed to writing by one of the staff in your office?

2. Can you conscientiously state whether that man or your alleged correspondent was really a correspondent of your paper *in the proper sense of the word*?

3. In giving you the news, did he say he was present at the coronation referred to, and saw the victims?

4. Did the alleged correspondent satisfy you that he was an eye-witness?

5. If not, how is it that that communication was written in a strain as coming from a person who was an eye-witness?

I must here mention that the seriousness of it is that the letter was written as if the writer was on the spot, and observed all that was stated in the article.

6. If your informant was not an eye-witness to the above *fact*, as a nation, are we not entitled to a proper apology from you?

Yours truly,

ALBERT OSSOO ANSAH OF ASHANTI.

Freemason's Hall,
Cape Coast Castle.

December 18th, 1894.

January 31, 1895.

Out of journalistic courtesy we publish the above in the same way as we would set up anything coming from the other side, but we must point out to Prince Albert that we are under no obligations whatsoever morally, or otherwise, to answer to his vigorous catechism; besides, we are by no means ambitious to create innovations of this kind in the sacred fields of journalism.

EDS. G. C. M. TIMES.

C.

EXTRACT from the "GOLD COAST METHODIST TIMES."

January 31st, 1895.

Some time last August we published an account of the coronation of Prempe, King of Ashanti, in which a dreadful slaughter of human beings was reported. This called for a letter from Prince Albert Ansah from Axim, refuting the statement. Since then, so much has been made of the subject by our Government on the arrival here of the Embassy from Ashanti, that we find it absolutely necessary to either confirm the report or else make a clear and positive refutation of it.

This we find impossible to do ourselves, since we only published what our correspondent sent us. But to be fair, we have written to him to take all necessary steps to find out the accuracy of the account, or otherwise, especially as he himself says he had the news indirect, and have also impressed upon him the extreme importance of his doing so *at all costs*, as we understand that the refusal of Her Majesty's Government in England to receive the embassy is chiefly based upon our account of this horrible slaughter.

We would assure our friends, both Fantis and Ashantis, that we shall not let a moment pass by without tendering an unqualified and unequivocal apology to them,

as soon as we receive from our correspondent such facts as would lead us to do so; until then, our duty as editors is, we trust, quite plain to everyone.

EDS. G. C. M. T.

D.

BLUE BOOK.

1872 to 1882.

FROM ABORIGINES PROTECTION SOCIETY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

November 23rd, 1881.

The attention of the Committee of this Society has been directed to the following paragraph which has been widely published in this country.

"Massacre of 200 girls.
A horrible Ashanti custom."

"A Reuter's telegram states that the following advices have been brought by the steamship 'Nubia.' Information of a startling and sensational nature was received at Cape Coast Castle last month to the effect that the King of Ashanti had put to death 200 young girls. The sole purpose of this horrible massacre was to use the blood of the victims for mixing 'the swish,' intended to be used in the repair of one of the King's buildings. The report has been received from a refugee who is stated to have been included amongst the victims but who happily made good her escape in time. It receives some confirmation also in the fact that such wholesale sacrifices of human life are known to be a custom of the Ashanti King. It is hoped that a strict inquiry will be made into the matter."

A fortnight having elapsed since the publication of this sensational news, the Committee would feel obliged if your Lordship would kindly inform them whether any information on the subject has been received at the Colonial Office. If the horrible story be untrue, it seems desirable that the public should know this, and at the same time they should be cautioned against too readily attaching credit to similar unauthenticated reports of massacres on the West Coast of Africa. If, on the other hand, there is reason to believe that the King of Ashanti has put to death 200, or say any number of human beings, the Committee feel sure that the matter will engage your Lordship's attention, and that you will consider the expediency of asking Sir Samuel Rowe, in whose judgment and tact the public have much confidence, to employ his influence to induce the King to abandon the revolting customs which have so justly excited the indignation of the English Government and people.

I have &c.
(Signed) F. W. CHESSON,
Secretary.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

D. Page 36.

BLUE BOOK.

1872 to 1882.

GOVERNOR ROWE to EARL KNUTSFORD.*

February 21st, 1882.

Pp. 6 and 7.

6. I have also the honour to transmit a reply from the Editor of the "Gold Coast Times," who states that the information was given to him by a Mr. John Grant, who obtained it from a certain woman, now living at Cape Coast, who heard it from the lips of one of the intended victims who escaped to this Colony, and whom she met in the village of Moree.

7. I have also the honour to attach copies of letters from the present District Commissioner at Cape Coast (Mr. C. de Freville Green) who states that he sent over to Moree to enquire if the girl (who, in the letter from the Editor of the "Gold Coast Times" is stated to have been "an intended victim") was there, and adds, the "Chief of Moree declares that no such girl has been at the village."

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* *Sic.*

Page 37.

Enclosure 1 in No. 27.

ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY to KING GHARTEY.

January 24th, 1882.

KING,

I AM directed by his Excellency the Governor to request that you will forward any information you may be possessed of in reference to the report which appeared in No. 14, dated 22nd October 1881, of the "Gold Coast Times" as to a man from Ashanti having visited Winnebah, and stated that the reported murder of 200 girls in Ashanti was true.

If you are not possessed of any information on this subject, the Governor requests that you will make inquiries to find out the truth.

Page 37.

Enclosure 2 in No. 27.

KING OF WINNEBAH to ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

January 28th, 1882.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, addressed to me by the direction of his Excellency the Governor, requesting me to forward any information to the report which appeared in the "Gold Coast Times," of No. 14, October 22nd, 1881, as to a man visiting Winnebah from Ashanti has affirmed that the reported murder of 200 girls in Ashanti as correct.

I beg to state, for his Excellency's information, that I only had the report from the "paper" to which you refer in your letter, and nowhere else, and I am entirely disinclined to believe such report as being correct.

Page 38.

Enclosure 3 in No. 27.

ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY to DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

January 24th, 1882.

I am directed by his Excellency the Governor, to request that you will forward any information you may be possessed of in reference to the report which appeared in issue No. 14, dated 22nd October 1881 of the "Gold Coast Times," as to a man from Ashanti having visited Winnebah and stated that the reported murder of 200 girls in Ashanti was true.

If you are not possessed of any information on this subject, the Governor requests that you will make inquiries to find out the truth.

Enclosure 4 to No. 27.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER OF WINNEBAH to ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

January 28th, 1882.

In reply to your letter of the 24th instant, I have the honour to state, for his Excellency's information, that I remember some time ago, either the latter part of the month of September or the beginning of October, I heard a flying report having reference to the murder of 200 girls in Ashanti. This report was said to have been brought here by an Ashanti trader who was passing here, but no one could tell who this Ashanti was, it was a mere flying report. I have also inquired from some of the merchants and they tell me the same thing, that they did hear of such a report some time ago brought here by an Ashanti, but who this Ashanti was and where he has gone to they do not know, and cannot even recollect him if they were to see him.

Enclosure 5 in No. 27.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, WINNEBAH, to ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

February 2nd, 1882.

With reference to your letter of the 24th ultimo, and my reply of the 28th of same month, I have the honour to report further, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, that I have been thinking over the inquiry contained in your letter above mentioned. I recollect that some time last year, about the latter part of September or the beginning of October, I wrote to Mr. Laing, editor of the "Gold Coast Times" for some copies of the "Times" I require to make up a collection I was making of the "Times," to bind up into a book at the close of the year, and I remember I remarked that I had seen an article in the "Times" having reference to human sacrifice in Coomassie, and that although I have heard people in this town talking of the same thing, the news said to have been brought here by an Ashanti trader, yet we do not believe it, as we cannot find who brought the news, as everyone say "they heard,' and I have no doubt Mr. Laing had made his article on this remark. I have cause to believe this, because he made mention of Winnebah; however, I have written to Mr. Laing to inquire from him about it, and will report to you on the receipt of his answer. I have also been informed that the person who is likely to know the truth of the case is at "Swaydool," in whose house in this town the Ashanti traders generally reside. I have therefore sent for him to see if I could get any further information about the matter, and will also report what information I get from him.

Page 39.

Enclosure 7 in No. 27.

Mr. JUSTICE WATT to ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

February 2nd, 1882.

Pp. 5 and 6.

5. All the details that I can collect of recent sacrifices in Ashanti are as follows:—
On the day of Captain Lonsdale's arrival in Coomassie one man was killed by order of the King; at least one man is known to have been killed, but my informants disagree as to the reason why this man was killed; some stating that he was sacrificed in the usual manner for a "custom," while others assert that he was killed because he had been caught in adultery with one of the King's wives.

6. A short time after the above occurrence, one of the members of the royal family of Ashanti, a woman called Yah Affileh, who, it appears, is the aunt of the Queen-Mother, died somewhat unexpectedly. She was buried in the royal mausoleum of Bantoomah, in the presence of all the royal family. No human sacrifice took place in Coomassie, but during a period of four weeks, girls and women, in batches of 10 and 12 at a time, were killed in the outlying villages near to Coomassie, and when the period of custom drew to a close, the tomb over the remains of Yah Affileh was built up with an admixture of human blood and of clay. My informants cannot give the exact number of persons sacrificed, but they agree that a large number of female slaves perished during the long "custom" of four weeks' duration, and I am of opinion that the report which reached Cape Coast of the number of 200 girls in Coomassie is true, and that the sacrifice was for the custom in honour of Yah Affileh which I have described.

Page 40.

Enclosure 8 in No. 27.

ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY to the EDITOR OF "GOLD COAST TIMES."

January 26th, 1882.

I am directed by his Excellency the Governor to say that he will be obliged to you if you will give him information of the source from which you received the news which appeared in your issue of 1st October 1881, to the effect that it was rumoured that the

King of Ashanti had ordered the execution of about 200 young women, and requested that "their blood should be mixed with the 'swish' which would be used" when the frame of a new window was being put in.

Page 41.

From Editor "Gold Coast Times" to Acting Colonial Secretary, Gold Coast.

Enclosure 9 in No. 27.

Undated.

Received February 6th, 1882.

In reply to your letter of the 6th instant, relative to the sacrifice of 200 females in Coomassie, I have to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, that I received the intelligence from a Mr. John Grant, a native of this town, who obtained it in conversation with a certain woman now living in Cape Coast. The latter, it appears, heard the news from the lips of one of the intended victims who escaped to the Colony, and whom she met in the village of Moree. Mr. Bartels, the commandant of Winnebah, could also furnish his Excellency with further details touching this sad and dreadful subject.

Page 43.

Enclosure 15 in No. 27.

From Rupert La T. Lonsdale to the Governor.

February 21st, 1882.

Pp. 3.

The result of my endeavours in this direction produced nothing on which to found a definite opinion as to whether the murder of 200 "virgins" actually occurred within such a space of time as to enable it to be termed a collective act. But that 200 girls were butchered on any one particular occasion within the past six months, I have gathered, with some difficulty, sufficient knowledge of the affairs of Ashanti during that period to be able to say, with a thorough conviction of the correctness of the statement, that nothing so conspicuously brutal took place. Still, whilst advancing this as the opinion formed on the spot from a variety of sources, too numerous to attempt to render lucid without entering into almost interminable detail, I add, as a co-existent opinion, formed under similar circumstances and through equal agencies, that it may be assumed, beyond the possibility of doubt, that murders, called sacrifices, do take place, and that within a short period so many may have been committed as to give a vague foundation for the report in the "Gold Coast Times."

Page 32.

Blue Book.

1873 to 1882.

No. 21.

From Sir S. Rowe to Earl Knutsford.

January 28th, 1882.

My Lord,

In reference to the subject of my despatch dated 31st December 1881 (No. 16), in reply to your Lordship's despatch dated 18th November 1881 (No. 9), viz., the reported murder of 200 girls by the King of Ashanti, I have the honour to forward a copy of a letter which I have received from Prince John Ossoo Ansah.

He states his firm belief that no such occurrence as the reported murder ever took place, and further that, according to the laws of the Ashanti country, no such occurrence could take place.

Enclosure in No. 21.

PRINCE ANSAH to Mr. SHERWIN.

January 21st, 1882.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, which his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief directed you to write to me, and which states, "That I have no doubt seen and heard of the reports in the London papers of 'the "'reported murder of 200 girls by the King of Ashanti,' &c."

In reply you will inform his Excellency that to the best of my knowledge I did see that lying and shameful article or publication in the "Gold Coast Times" of 1st October 1881, which is the source of this transaction against the King of Ashanti, when I was at Accra, and afterwards saw it in the London papers, all attributing to the King the guilt of the most inhuman action of sacrificing 200 young women.

After I read that article in the "Gold Coast Times" I called on Prince Buaki, who was then at Accra, and read that article and interpreted it to him, who was much grieved and pained at it, and expressed his sorrow for the ill-feelings which some people on the Gold Coast have against the King and his people (the Ashantis). The Prince assured me that his son, the King, could never dream and dare to commit such deeds while his father (Buaki) was away on an important mission to the Government, whose feelings are against such action, and that the son would not do anything to frustrate his mission, and said that article must have come from the enemies of the Ashantis, who want to turn the white men's head against the King and his people.

I say this for myself, that from the beginning to end it was all nonsense and lies, as I know my people so well, and their laws on human sacrifices, and the King is not so absolute as all that for the Ashantis to permit 200 young women to be sacrificed merely for their blood to repair the king's window at the very time when the country is in a great difficulty. I never heard such a thing yet, and no person would credit such nonsense, except those who wish and pray for the downfall of poor Ashanti.

Be pleased to inform his Excellency I have not seen nor heard of the person who is reported to have escaped from amongst the number intended to be sacrificed, and from whom it is said the information was obtained.

Page 32.

BLUE BOOK.

1872 to 1882.

From GOVERNOR ROWE to EARL KIMBERLEY.

January 28th, 1882.

In reference to the subject of my despatch dated 31st December 1881, in reply to your Lordship's despatch dated 18th November 1881, viz., the reported murder of 200 girls by the King of Ashanti, I have the honour to forward a copy of a letter which I have received from Prince John Ossoo Ansah.

2. He states his firm belief that no such occurrence as the reported murder ever took place, and further that, according to the laws of the Ashanti country, no suc › ccurrence could take place.

D.

HUMAN SACRIFICES.

Page 21.

BLUE BOOK.

1872 to 1882.

From F. RAMSEYER to GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF.

October 1st, 1881.

Enclosure 2 in No. 8.

Pp. 6.

I may perhaps add that I was deeply impressed by the contrast of the state of things in Coomassie 10 years ago, and now I found the people as much as I can say humiliated,

longing for peace, they are very much afraid of doing anything against the wish of the Governor. I was told that since many months no human sacrifices had taken place, although I cannot believe that this cruel custom can cease at once, and that it is doubtless performed in secret. I must acknowledge that although I went purposely in many streets I did not see any indice of human sacrifice.

D.

HUMAN SACRIFICES.

Page 22.

BLUE BOOK.

1872 to 1882.

The EARL OF KIMBERLEY to GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE.

November 18, 1881.

I transmit to you herewith a copy of a paragraph which has recently appeared in the London newspapers, and I have to request that you will be good enough to inform me whether you have reason to believe that there is any truth in the statement as to the murder of a number of young women by the order of King of Ashanti, under circumstances of peculiar atrocity.

Enclosure in No. 9.

EXTRACT from the "TIMES" Newspaper, of November 11, 1881.

Cape Coast Castle, October 16.

Information of a startling and sensational nature was received here a few days ago to the effect that the King of Ashanti had put to death 200 young girls. The sole purpose of this horrible massacre was to use the blood of the victims for mixing up the "swish" intended to be used in the repair of one of the King's state buildings. The report has been received from a refugee, who is stated to have been included among the victims, but who happily made good her escape in time. It receives some confirmation also in the fact that such wholesale sacrifices of human life are known to be a custom of the Ashanti King. It is hoped here that a strict inquiry will be made into the matter.

D.

Page 26.

BLUE BOOK.

1872 to 1882.

From GOVERNOR ROWE to EARL KNUTSFORD.

December 31, 1881.

Pp. 3.

I have the honour to forward copy of a letter from Mr. Edmund Bannerman (whose mother is a Princess of Ashanti and the sister of Prince Ansah) on this subject.

Enclosure in No. 16.

From MR. E. BANNERMAN to SIR SAMUEL ROWE, K.C.M.G.

December 21st, 1881.

DEAR SIR,

ON my return from Accra just now I had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter of this day's date respecting the rumour published in the English papers as to the

King of Ashanti having put to death 200 young females, for the sole purpose of mixing their blood with swish for building purposes.

I have not seen this rumour in the "Standard" as my subscription to that journal was only renewed on November 14th, just one day after the publication of the article you refer to; but I have seen it in several other papers, and at once expressed my surprise at the very extreme gullibility of the British public.

The report first made its appearance in the "Gold Coast Times," but from whence that journal obtained its information I am at a loss to conceive.

No doubt the rumour was copied from the "Gold Coast Times" direct, or second hand through the purser of one of the mail steamers.

The idea is so utterly childish and absurd that it would be hardly worth while contradicting it, but for the fact that the public in England are not so well up in these matters as we on the coast are. As a matter of fact, the King of Ashanti has no more power to kill 200, or even two girls, under such circumstances and for such purposes as those alleged, than the Governor of the Gold Coast, or any other British Colony, as Mr. Freeman and many other less partial authorities than I am usually supposed to be will assure your Excellency. As a matter of fact, if the King had attempted anything of the kind, a thing never attempted by any of his most powerful predecessors, the whole of Coomassie would have risen in revolt against him.

I shall not only be most happy in assisting your Excellency in the elucidation of this matter, but I shall deem it my duty to do so, even if only for the poor King's sake.

If your Excellency would allow me the perusal of the article in the "Standard" to which you refer, I shall be extremely obliged, and will do my best to enlighten the editor on the subject.

I am convinced that the whole matter is a fabrication manufactured in Cape Coast.

I am, &c.

E. BANNERMAN.

His Excellency
Sir Samuel Rowe, K.C.M.G.

E.

Page 158.

BLUE BOOK, 1888.

No. C., 5615. Enclosure in No. 38.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

(Received September 18th, 1888.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle,
Accra, August 20, 1888.

[*See page* 68.]

E.

RECOGNITION AS AMBASSADORS.

Page 145.

Blue Book, 1881. C. 3064. No. 115.

The EARL OF KIMBERLEY to GOVERNOR ROWE.

SIR, Downing Street, June 3, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 4th of May, and to convey to you my approval of the course which you have pursued, as reported in that Despatch, in connexion with the visit of the ambassadors from the King of Ashanti.

E.

Page 157.

BLUE BOOK 1888, No. C. 5615.—Enclosure in No. 37.

The DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Cape Coast, to GOVERNOR.

TELEGRAM.

Cape Coast, August 9, 1888.

Ambassadors from the King of Ashanti and from the King and Chiefs of Becquai and Eguisue arrived here last night and had an interview with me this morning. They tell me substantially what your Excellency already knows from the letters I have forwarded from Prahsue. The King of Kokofu is in Akeni, in the Protectorate, and is plotting from there against the peace of Ashantee. They therefore desire the Government to have him deported. The ambassadors are proceeding to Accra to see your Excellency personally. They will probably start to-day. A large number of traders accompanied them to the coast. They report that the King of Ashantee and the Kings of Becguah and Eguisue are very anxious to have the roads opened for trade and to be friendly with the British.

E.

Page 5.

BLUE BOOK 1882. No. 3386. No. 6.

October 16, 1881.

Governor ROWE to Lord KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my Despatch dated 28th September 1881, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Ashanti Ambassadors and their followers left this place on the 15th inst.

16. I had another interview with the ambassadors on the 14th inst. for them to take their leave. At this meeting, after repeating much that had been said before, I handed to Prince Buaki to be given to his King, a copy in English of the report of the proceedings at Elmina on the 30th day of May 1881.

F.

GENEALOGICAL TREE.

BLUE BOOK.

C. 4052.

In continuation of (C. 3687) of July 1883.

Page 55.

Pp. 35.

35. It may not perhaps be out of place if a few incidents pertaining to the lineage of some of the Kings of Ashantee be here recorded. In the early part of the present century Ossai Asibey was the King of Ashantee; he married Asantewa; the issue of that marriage was two sons and one daughter,

1. Owusu Kokor now in Coomassie.
2. Tacheow who afterwards married her cousin King Quacoe Duah.
3. Ossoo Ansah now at Cape Coast.

King Ossai Asibey had a sister named Ama Sawah, whom I will notice later on. It was this King who marched an army through our country and attacked us in the fort of Anamaboe. He died in Coomassie and was succeeded by his brother Ossai Yaow who married Yaah Agor, and had issue one daughter and one son.

1. Yaah Hom. The present Mrs. Bannerman of Accra.
2. Ossoo Inquantibisa, who was sent to England with Ossoo Ansah. He died at Cape Coast.

No. 43.

COLONIAL OFFICE to SIR W. B. GRIFFITH.

[*Answered by No.* 44.]

SIR, Downing Street, May 28, 1895.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Ripon to transmit to you, in original and to be returned, a letter* from Mr. Brew and to request that you will favour his Lordship with your report upon the statements made by him on behalf of the so-called Ashanti Embassy.

I am, &c.

JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 44.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received July 3, 1895.)

SIR, The Chestnuts, Ealing, July 1, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Bramston's letter of the 28th May,† transmitting to me, by the direction of the Secretary of State, in original, a letter from Mr. Brew with the request that I would report upon the statements made by him on behalf of the so-called Ashanti Embassy.

2. Mr. or Chief Brew, as he styles himself, makes the following statements in his letter of the 22nd of May‡ to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of which he transmitted to Lord Ripon.

(*a.*) That, "the right and title of His Majesty Kwaku Dua III. as King of Ashanti "is directly raised by Her Majesty's Government, but one can scarcely credit that "it is seriously so, in face of his recognition as such by Her Majesty's Government," and in support of which he draws attention to various extracts from Blue Books, and attaches copies of such extracts as enclosures to his letter.

(*b.*) That King Kwaku Dua III. abhors human sacrifices as much as any one in his position can do; and having pledged his word to Her Majesty's Government that he would not permit or countenance human sacrifices had adhered to his promise; that His Majesty neither allows or countenances human sacrifices, and that there is no truth in the alleged slaughter of human beings.

(*c.*) That "Her Majesty's Government have heretofore received ambassadors from the "Kings of Ashanti and have recognised them as such; and that Chief Kwarmin "Boatin has previously been received by the Gold Coast Government as an "ambassador from the present King of Ashanti, and is one of the most powerful "Chiefs in the Kingdom."

3. It is certainly the case that the Gold Coast Government in its communications with Kwaku Dua addressed him as King of Ashanti, and continued to do so from motives of policy, being desirous of conciliating him with the purpose of accomplishing the objects it had in view with regard to the future of that country, but on my return to the Colony in March last year, on looking fully into the Ashanti question, it appeared to me that Ashanti was no longer a compact state, but had been split up into sections, and that a few of the tribes were held together by the recollection of the former influence of Kumasi, each, however, biding its time to get rid of this influence and become independent. It had also been discovered that Kwaku Dua when enstooled in 1888 at Kumasi had not been placed on the royal, or so-termed, Golden Stool, a ceremony which would have entitled him to be called King of Ashanti, but was put in a secondary position, because he could only have been placed on the Royal Stool by the Kings of Kokofu and Mampon, both of whom declined to be present in person on the occasion of his election. Virtually, therefore, he was in reality only King of Kumasi. His coronation could not, in the circumstances, take place in 1888, and it was in order to the carrying out of this step that Kwaku Dua last year appointed two men as Chiefs of Kokofu and Mampon, to represent the absentee Chiefs of those tribes, and to perform the duties which by right of custom devolved on the legitimate Chiefs of those countries, the Chiefs being alive but not attending at Kumasi because in fear of being killed if they went there, or remained

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* No. 42 † No. 43. ‡ Encl. in No. 42.

in Ashanti. It was in this way, by the consent of the people still attached to Kumasi, that Kwaku Dua's so-called coronation took place. But, as the appointment of the two men referred to was an illegal act on the King's part, any action taken by them in the new capacities assigned to them was unlawful, and therefore their act in placing Kwaku Dua on the Golden Stool was illegal and had no binding force. In short, it failed in the effort desired, viz., that of making him King of Ashanti, and he therefore necessarily remained in the position he had occupied previously, viz., that of King of Kumasi.

4. Again, it appeared to me that circumstances had occurred which disentitled him to be regarded as King of Ashanti. Subsequently to his election, the Kokofus, having been defeated by the Becquahs, withdrew, as did also the Dadiassie and Inquantah tribes, from their respective countries, into the British Protectorate. The Kwahus and Attabubus were taken under that protection; the Mampons had asked to be located in the Protectorate; treaties had been entered into with tribes previously under the sway of Ashanti, viz., Amantin, N'Koranza and Abrasi; whilst Gold Coast troops were occupying Agogo in Ashanti; Yow Sapon, the King of Juabin, was entreating to be taken under British protection, and I had reason to believe that the Becquahs, the most powerful of the Ashanti tribes, were dissatisfied with the Kumasis. In all of these circumstances, it appeared to me that Kwaku Dua was not King of Ashanti, but only of the province of Kumasi, and therefore I ceased to describe him as occupying the former position, and addressed him as the King of Kumasi only. Nor has his position in such regard been improved by the sham ceremony of his having been put on the Golden Stool in June 1894 by the puppets he selected for the purpose. Taking all of the circumstances stated into consideration, it appeared to me that he had not established a claim to be King of Ashanti, and, being virtually only King of Kumasi, he should be so addressed, and not otherwise. In this regard I would ask reference to my Despatch of the 7th of May 1894,* section 13.

5. With regard to the assertion that Kwaku Dua abhors human sacrifices, that he neither allows nor countenances them, and that there is no truth in the alleged slaughter of human beings, as stated in the Gold Coast papers, I desire to point attention to the barefaced falsehood of the Ashantis in their statement on this point, as it affords another instance of what they will do in order to mislead and deceive.

6. Messrs. Ansah and their associates, through Mr. Brew, observe: "It is remarkable "that the British officer who was present at the King's coronation should never have "heard of this massacre, and that he should have written to the Government that human "sacrifices had ceased. It it noteworthy that nearly six years should have elapsed ere "the story found its way into the columns of that paper," (the "Gold Coast Methodist Times" of August 1st, 1894), "and that no other periodical should have had an account "of it." The object of the foregoing statement is to make it appear that the coronation referred to in the paper was Kwaku Dua's election and seating on a Stool when Mr. Barnet was sent to Kumasi in 1888. But the newspaper was not dealing with that event, but with Kwaku Dua's so-called coronation in June 1894, six years after. It was unlikely that sacrifices would be made in 1888, just as the young King had been elected, mainly by the support of the Gold Coast Government, which had warned him strongly against such cruelty at Ashanti customs. That, in all probability, about 100 persons were killed when two of the King's sisters died, before what took place in June 1894, is shown in Mr. Vroom's report, transmitted in my letter (second) dated the 7th of May 1894. I would also ask reference to section 4 of my Despatch of the 8th of May, to my Despatches of the 21st and 22nd of May,† and to my Despatch dated the 14th of September, section 3.‡ Mr. Brew wants to make it appear that the slaughter of 400 human beings at Kumasi, when Kwaku Dua's so-called coronation took place in June 1894, as stated by the "Gold Coast Methodist Times," was impossible, as he asserts that such ceremony occurred in 1888. But it did not so happen, as Kwaku Dua was not placed on the Golden Stool in 1888, but in 1894, *and the slaughter of* 400 *human beings was stated to have occurred in June of the last-mentioned year.* Mr. Brew labours to show to the contrary, but his attempt is so transparent that it will not mislead or deceive any one acquainted with the circumstances. I would add that other newspapers of the Gold Coast alluded to the horrible atrocities which had taken place at Kumasi, whilst one said that a regard for public opinion prevented it from citing worse cases than those already reported. The editor of one of the newspapers is a Mr. Sarbah, who writes with authority on the subject, as he was engaged in trade with the King of Becquah, who had refused to contribute slaves towards the intended sacrifices on the King's enstoolment, and gave money instead.

* No. 77 in [C. 7917.]. † Nos. 78, 80, and 81 in [C. 7917.]. ‡ No. 94 in [C. 7917.].

7. In further corroboration of what I have stated relative to the wanton and barbarous sacrifice of wretched captives and slaves at Kumasi in 1894, I ask special reference to my Despatch of the 19th of February 1895,* which is fully descriptive upon the matter.

8. I would also mention in the general connexion, with reference to the great crimes committed at Kumasi, in June 1894, that I was told by a chief living at a coast town, who traded with Kumasi, that he was there at the time the King was placed on the Golden Stool; that he did not go out of his lodging place to witness what was going on, as it would have been a breach of native etiquette on his part as a visitor, and would not only have injured his trading operations, but might have exposed him to the risk of being severely dealt with; but that he had heard of the great number of heads cut off when Kwaku Dua's nominees of Kokofu and Mampon placed him on the Golden Stool from his servant who had seen the wickedness perpetrated. My informant also stated that the place he lodged at was near Mr. John Ansah's house; that he was on friendly terms with him; that he heard the screams and entreaties of the wretched victims as they were seized for decapitation; and that Ansah, who was the King's chief adviser and exercised great influence over him, must also have heard them. People on the Gold Coast have not any doubt as to the truth of the statement made in the "Gold Coast Methodist Times," and other local papers in the Colony, relative to the human sacrifices at Kumasi in June 1894.

9. Then, as regards ambassadors from the King of Ashanti having been received and recognised as such by the Gold Coast Government, I would state for myself that I have never received Ashantis in any such capacity. Chiefs have been sent to Accra as messengers from the King, but not as ambassadors. Mr. John Ansah attempted once to pass himself off to me as an ambassador, but I refused to recognise him. During my absence on leave in 1893, Kwaku Dua sent messengers to Mr. Hodgson, one of them being Kwaku Freku, who is one of the messengers in this country from Kumasi. Whilst at Accra, he was threatened with legal proceedings for debt. Mr. Hodgson, on inquiring from the Crown Law Officer whether, looking to the capacity in which the man came to Accra, he could be proceeded against in the courts of the Colony, was answered affirmatively. He informed Kwaku Freku of this, whereupon the latter immediately left his colleagues and crossed the border at Prahsue, to escape arrest. It was Mr. John Ansah who was so anxious, whilst at Cape Coast, to establish two propositions:—

(*a*) that himself and party were ambassadors, and

(*b*) that in such capacity they were not liable to the jurisdiction of the Colony.

I consulted the Crown Law Officers upon these points, and they expressed the opinion that Mr. Ansah and his associates could not be regarded as ambassadors, and that they were just as amenable to the laws of the Colony as any other persons who were staying in it.

10. With regard to the statement made relative to Kwarmin Buatin, he was sent with a message to Mr. Young, and I found him at Accra when I assumed the Government on Mr. Young's death, in 1885. Owing to internal dissentions in Ashanti, he was afraid to return to Kumasi, fearing that he would be beheaded, and he wished to remain at Accra, where he received a good "subsistence" allowance. It was with great reluctance that he left Accra for Ashanti, on my directing him to do so, when sending a mission to Kumasi. I am not aware that he was ever received as an ambassador; and if he is a powerful Chief in Ashanti, he can only have become so recently. I regard him as a spy sent to watch the proceedings of the Ansahs.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
late Governor of the Gold Coast Colony.

No. 45.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received July 8, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 62.]

(EXTRACT.) Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra, June 13, 1895.

Two months having elapsed since my arrival in this Colony, I must no longer delay the report upon the course of action to be adopted in regard to Kumasi which is called for in your Lordship's Despatch of the 15th March last.†

* No. 31. † No. 25.

I have studied very carefully the papers in which our negotiations with Kumasi since the Nkoranza affair of 1892 up to the departure of the Kumasi messengers to England are recorded. I have also endeavoured by a study of the history of the campaign of 1873–74 and of our dealings with Ashanti since, and by conversation with those best qualified to give me information, to arrive at some estimate of these people, their qualities, their power, and their intentions.

I may say at the outset that the difficulty of getting information about anything that goes on in Ashanti is extreme. As your Lordship is aware, this Government has no qualified agents in the interior. Our stations are almost all small coast-ports and with the exception of two native District Commissioners (one at Tarkwa and the other at Akuse) we have no representatives in the interior at all. Again, the European public servants here are, with two or three exceptions, wholly ignorant of the native languages, and are not, therefore, in confidential communication with natives of any class. Not only, therefore, is little intelligence received, but it is not easy to judge of the value of statements which may be made.

The examination which I have made of the questions pending with the King of Kumasi suggests certain reflections which I will lay briefly before your Lordship. It is necessary for the peace and welfare of this Colony, which has constantly been disturbed by the occurrence of petty warfare beyond our borders begun or fomented by Kumasi, that the neighbouring tribes should be allowed to live unmolested. It is desirable in the interests of humanity that the horrible practice of sacrificing human victims should be stamped out wherever our power can reach, as without this the work of Great Britain in suppressing the slave-trade is incomplete. And, finally, at a period when the French are advancing inland on both sides of us, it is not, I submit, to be tolerated that the opening up of the interior of this part of Africa to British commerce should be prevented by the pretentions of a petty despotism from which no decent government is to be expected, on whose protestations no reliance can be placed and whose history is a chronicle of deceit, cruelty, and breach of treaty engagements. Further, it is not possible, without preparing for ourselves grave trouble in future, to recede from the position already taken up or to allow matters to remain as they are. As it is, the return of the Hausa force from Attabubu last year has been misunderstood, and those in power at Kumasi affect to believe that this column was withdrawn without striking a blow in Ashanti because it was recognised that the power of the King of Kumasi is too formidable.

The refusal of the King of Kumasi to give a direct answer to our demands of February 1894 makes it difficult to say what part of those demands may be acceptable and what unacceptable. Native opinion here seems to be that, while there is comparatively little objection to the establishment of a British Resident at Kumasi, universal fear is entertained that the establishment of British protection will result in the manumission of slaves. This I believe to be the main difficulty. Of course the spokesmen of the deputation sent by the King of Kumasi to England are astute enough to keep in the background a motive the avowal of which would horrify public opinion in England. They merely claim independence in general terms. Mr. A. A. O. Ansah, for instance, in a letter to Sir W. Brandford Griffith of 5th October 1894, suggested "that it is essential that the Government ought now to formally acknowledge Ashanti as an independent native empire." And, as another instance, I quote the following extracts from a cleverly-written article communicated to the London newspapers last month, soon after the arrival of the Ashanti deputation in England:—"The destruction of the Ashanti power by the "expedition of Sir Garnet Wolseley in 1873 removed the "central authority which had previously kept the surrounding "countries and tribes in subjection and order. With the success of British arms there "devolved upon the destroyer of the Ashanti central power the responsibility for peace "and order. The refusal of that responsibility by Her Majesty's Government has been "the chief cause, in the eyes of the Ashantis, of the protracted period of civil war and "anarchy with its attendant results in the diminution of trade and prosperity. "These disasters the Ashantis have fought against, alone and unaided. Their efforts "have been crowned with conspicuous success. As far back as 1888 their aim to secure "unity and peace has resulted in the election as King of Ashanti of a sovereign whose "rule has been characterised by firmness, tact, and wisdom. Since the achievement of "this important step in the direction of progress they have succeeded in still further "consolidating the peace and prosperity of the country. Refractory tributaries have "been taught obedience, roads have been opened, trade has been extended, and the "horrible custom of human sacrifice has been long ago finally put an end to by the "people's wish and by the King's authority.

The Graphic, May 4th, 1895.

"Now that so much has been accomplished by their own unaided efforts, it is felt "that native opinion should properly be consulted in settling the terms under which "the appointment of a British Resident may be made for the protection of British "interests. *It is understood that, unless the terms of the appointment be carefully "defined, the appearance of a Resident in Coomassie is likely to be followed at an early "date by the definite conversion of the country into a British Protectorate. No secret "is made of the dislike with which the Chiefs and rulers of Ashanti contemplate the "possibility of their receiving under a Protectorate similar treatment to that which has "been accorded to the natives resident within the Gold Coast Colony.* To them the "matter is of momentous importance. With Sir Brandford Griffith, the Governor of "the Gold Coast, they could not treat with sufficient confidence. And to the Queen "and to her responsible Ministers in London must, the King's Council decided, the "final appeal be made for a hearing of the Ashanti cause."

The passages underlined indicate, in my opinion, the existence of the dread of losing their slaves, which is really influencing the King and Chiefs of Kumasi in holding out against the free acceptance of British protection. However skilfully this may be wrapped up in generalities about "the treatment accorded to natives resident within the Gold "Coast Colony," I feel safe in assuring your Lordship that the only part of that treatment to which rooted repugnance is felt in Kumasi is the protection given to the slave, including the suppression of human sacrifice. I will not waste your Lordship's time by controverting statements put forward in a newspaper article *ad captandum vulgus*. Your Lordship knows how much trust is to be placed in Ashanti assertions as to the opening of roads, the improvement of trade, and the prohibition of human sacrifice "by the people's wish and the King's authority."

I find it difficult to submit for your Lordship's approval a sketch of the policy which I should propose to pursue, pending the return of the deputation from England. From your Lordship's Despatch of the 14th May 1895,* I have learned that the messengers have been refused an interview with your Lordship, and have been referred to me. They will, I assume, before returning to Africa, visit Paris and Berlin, and it may be expected that they will endeavour there to ascertain whether they can obtain the protection of either France or Germany, retaining full liberty to do as they have been accustomed to do in all matters relating to slaves. In Paris they will no doubt be informed that the French Government recognise Ashanti as being exclusively within our influence, while in Berlin they will learn, if they do not know it already, that the German sphere of influence lies exclusively to the eastward of the Neutral Zone. Returning, as they must, disappointed with the failure of their mission, they will, I trust, eventually address themselves to me with no unreasonable expectations, and it will be my very earnest desire to bring about a peaceful settlement of all matters at issue. As they are not under instructions from the King of Kumasi to present themselves here, it may be that they will return to Ashanti before seeking to open negotiations with me. However this may be, my present intention is, subject to your Lordship's approval, to tell them, if I have the opportunity, that in my opinion the proper place for the discussion of the future of Ashanti is Kumasi itself, and that I shall be willing to go there to treat with the King in person on being invited by him to do so. I should, of course, take a sufficient guard of Hausa Constabulary and a few civil officials selected for their experience of native affairs. The recent experience of Lagos shows the good results which may be accomplished by an expedition headed by the Governor himself.

The subjects for negotiations are:—

Acceptance by Kumasi and by all Ashanti tribes of British protection and flag to such extent as your Lordship may direct.
Free trade between Ashanti and the coast and vice versâ.
Free passage through Ashanti for goods from the interior on their way to the coast.
Protection for missionaries.
Abolition of human sacrifices.
Appointment of a British Resident with an adequate guard.
Guarantee by Kumasi to abstain from warfare with neighbouring tribes, not to close trade roads, and to refer all disputes to the Governor.
Payment by Colonial Government of stipend to certain persons, should these be acceptable.

As to these I believe that I am fully in possession of the views of Her Majesty's Government. There remains the claim of the British Government to the balance of the

* This Despatch merely transmitted copies of Nos. 34 and 35.

50,000 oz. of gold remaining unpaid under the Treaty of Fommanah. Probably this claim can remain in abeyance, if a peaceful settlement can be arranged as regards the other subjects.

The return of the messengers from Europe cannot, I suppose, be very long delayed. In any case, I feel that, while their mission continues, no fresh representations at Kumasi, unaccompanied by a display of force, can be of the slightest use. If, after their return, the King of Kumasi fails within a reasonable time to give a satisfactory answer to our letter of February 1894, or if negotiations, whether carried on at Kumasi or at Accra, prove, in spite of all my efforts, that a peaceful settlement is impossible, the time will have come for the despatch of an ultimatum to King Prempeh in accordance with your Lordship's instructions in paragraph 13 of the despatch under reply. The period within which compliance with the request of Her Majesty's Government is demanded should terminate not later than the 31st October, so as to allow the whole of the ensuing dry season for military operations if necessary.

I have tried to form a reasonable conjecture as to whether the Ashantis really intend, in the last resort, to oppose us by force of arms or not. It is generally stated that they have been arming for some time for this purpose. Mr. Brew, an African trader living in London, in his letter to your Lordship of February 9th, 1885,* spoke of the visit of Ashantis to England as an opportunity for an object lesson of the might, power, and vast resources of Great Britain which would have a tendency to avert "collision and unnecessary bloodshed." From this it would seem that he regarded a collision and consequent bloodshed as not improbable. On the other hand, Mr. Frank Russell, who is credited with knowing more than any one in the Colony about Ashanti affairs, believed, in July 1894, that there was a sincere desire to avoid any conflict with the Government, and this I am prepared to accept as the most probable view, for the love of money is one of the most strongly marked characteristics of the African, and the King and Chiefs of Kumasi must know that by fighting they risk all the treasure of the kingdom, irrespective of the cost of the campaign, which they may have to pay and the sum already due under the Treaty of Fommanah. The most recent letters of Mr. Ansah to Sir W. Brandford Griffith contain protestations of the earnest desire of King Prempeh for peace, but these must be taken for what they are worth. Acheriboanda, at a recent interview with me, stated that he has recently received information that the King of Kumasi has been buying a large quantity of arms and gunpowder "in order to fight against the Government if any "expedition is sent to Kumasi to force him to accept a British flag." The Rev. E. Perregaux, a missionary at Abetifi, wrote to me on the 6th May, mentioning rumours of war and preparations for war in Ashanti.

No. 46.

FOREIGN OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received July 12, 1895.)

SIR, Foreign Office, July 10, 1895.

WITH reference to your letter of the 9th May last,† I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, a further letter from Chief Brew relating to the so-called Embassy from the King of Ashanti.

He has been informed that his letter has been sent to your Department.

I am, &c.

H. PERCY ANDERSON.

Enclosure in No. 46.

Ashanti Embassy, 13, Lennox Gardens, S.W.,

MY LORD, July 3, 1895.

NOT having heard from the Colonial Office in reply to the Despatch from the Ashanti Embassy, dated the 22nd May last, addressed to Lord Kimberley, I beg to state, by the direction of the Embassy, that when, on their arrival at Cape Coast from Ashanti, they intimated to the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony that they were on

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* No. 10. † No. 36.

their way hither with a mission from the King of Ashanti to Her Majesty and Her Government, it was merely an act of courtesy which they thought due to themselves and the Governor as the sole representative of Her Majesty in that part of the world, but not because it was incumbent on them to convey the intelligence of their mission through the Colonial Office, as the Foreign Office, of which your Lordship is at present the head, is, they believe, the proper channel through which all communications between Her Majesty's Government and that of any independent States should pass. Consequently on the arrival of the Embassy here they placed themselves in communication with your Department; and they think that that is the correct course for them to pursue during the negotiations now pending between Her Majesty's Government and the King of Ashanti.

Meanwhile, under cover of a letter of even date herewith (a copy of which is now enclosed) a copy of the letter addressed to me by direction of Lord Kimberley on the 1st June last from your office is, by instruction of the Embassy, forwarded to the Colonial Office.

I have, &c.
BREW OF DUNQUAH.

Ashanti Embassy, 13, Lennox Gardens, S.W.,
July 3, 1895.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter I have received from the Foreign Office, in reply to the Despatch of date the 22nd May last of which a copy was sent to the Colonial Office.

As more than a month has now elapsed since same was forwarded to your predecessor, I am requested by the members of the Ashanti Embassy to call the attention of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to same, in case it may have escaped notice in the multiplicity of other business of your Department.

I have, &c.
BREW OF DUNQUAH.

The Earl of Selborne,
&c. &c. &c.

Foreign Office, June 1, 1895.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo.

I am to explain to you that the Department of Her Majesty's Government to which communications from you should be addressed is that of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

His Lordship understands that you have written to that Department in the sense of the note sent to this Office, and I am to state that you will no doubt receive a reply in due course.

I am, &c.
H. PERCY ANDERSON.

Chief Brew.

No. 47.

COLONIAL OFFICE to MR. BREW.

Downing Street, July 18, 1895.

SIR,

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to inform you that he has received from the Foreign Office a copy of your letter of the 3rd instant,* addressed to the Marquess of Salisbury enclosing a copy of your letter addressed to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, upon the subject of the so-called Embassy from the King of Ashanti.

In reply to both of these letters, I am to state that Mr. Chamberlain has nothing to add to the letter which was sent to you from this Department on the 9th of May† last.

I am, &c.
EDWARD WINGFIELD.

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* Enclosure in No. 46.

† No. 35.

No. 48.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received August 1, 1895.)

EXTRACT. Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra, July 2, 1895.

I have the honour to transmit the following documents, which I have found among the records of this office:—

Petition by the Chamber of Commerce, Cape Coast, to Sir W. Brandford Griffith, received at Cape Coast Castle on the 4th December 1894.

Notes of a meeting at Cape Coast Castle on the above date when the petition was presented.

Enclosure 1 in No. 48.

To His Excellency Sir WILLIAM BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Gold Coast Colony, West Africa.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

THE Cape Coast Chamber of Commerce humbly desire to lay before you the following petition, in the fervent hope that, so far as is practicable, some relief may be found from the present stagnation of trade in this district.

1. Without assuming any knowledge of the condition of the interior districts which we do not possess, we are strongly impressed with a belief that traders from the surrounding districts are restrained in their peaceful occupations by a general lack of security, due to the unsettled state of the various countries—in consequence of not only intertribal animosities but also of interferences and aggressions between these tribes and our European neighbours.

2. Your petitioners pray that, in reference to the kingdom of Ashantee, it may be definitely brought within the sphere of British influence.

3. That your Excellency may deem it advisable to place its administration upon a footing that should embrace some form of permanent Residency, under an experienced officer of a diplomatic and military training.

4. That the King of Ashantee be allowed to reserve all the rights and powers which he now exercises over his people.

5. That the Resident shall act as an adviser and chancellor to the King, and at the same time put down and do away with all barbarous practices and customs.

6. That the Resident be the means of protecting all traders passing through to the sea coast.

7. That a passport be given by the Resident to each trader for the number of carriers with him, guaranteeing protection against desertion and decoying away of those carriers on reaching the coast.

8. That the passport be sufficient for the trader to appeal to the District Commissioners in case of need, and that the carriers be compelled to return with their master.

9. That your petitioners also desire to lay before your Excellency for consideration the disturbed state of the Sefwhi country. Owing to recent fighting in the French territory beyond Allepê, Her Majesty's subjects living there are afraid to leave home lest they may be attacked and imprisoned by that Power. As a means of reassuring them in the continuance of their peaceful communications with the coast for trading purposes, we ask that your Excellency may send up a commissioner to reside in the town of Wiosu or Asafu.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

JAMES H. BATTY,
Deputy Chairman.
E. E. HOCHSTETTER,
Hon. Sec.
JNO. M. BARBAH.
JOSEPH MACFOY.
J. PATERSON,
Agent, Taylor Laughland & Co.
D. M. ABADOO,
Asst. Hon. Sec.
J. E. ELLIS.
J. D. ABRAHAM.
FRANK RUSSELL.
T. N. CARR,
Agent, J. F. Brookes.
E. HYDE.
T. ADDAQUAY.
ALEX. MACLEOD,
Agent, C. MacIver & Co.
W. THOS. DUNCAN,
pro Yates Bros., & Shaltuck.
S. ROTTMANN.
HARRY PHILLIPS,
Agent, H. B. W. Russell.
T. E. BOWEY.
F. W. MACAU,
p.p. J. H. Batty.
B. ENOFI.

Enclosure 2 in No. 48.

NOTES taken at a MEETING held at CAPE COAST CASTLE, on Tuesday the 4th December 1894, with a Deputation from the Cape Coast Chamber of Commerce.

PRESENT:

His Excellency the Governor Sir W. Brandford Griffith, K.C.M.G.
John Hall, Esq., Private Secretary.
J. H. Batty, Esq., President of the Chamber.
J. Mc Foy, Esq., } Members.
J. D. Abraham, Esq., }
E. E. Hochstetter, Esq., Secretary.

After the usual compliments had been exchanged, the Governor said that he would be glad to hear what the deputation had got to tell him.

Mr. Batty said that they had been deputed by the Chamber to lay before his Excellency a petition which he would call upon the Secretary to read.

Mr. Hochstetter then read, at the request of Mr. Batty, the petition in question, after which Mr. Batty said that for the last two months there have been no traders from the western boundary of the Colony, that is to say, from Sefwi, and on making inquiries they learn that the French had sent an expedition from Grand Bassam to a part of the Gaman country, to what part they were not sure, and that the people of Sefwi were afraid to come to the Coast.

Then, with regard to Ashanti district, the roads there are stopped, as they understand there are ambassadors on the way from Ashanti to see his Excellency, and whilst this envoy is on the way to the Coast they have practically stopped all communication, as no doubt they are desirous that no communication should reach the Coast before their arrival. So they find that the disturbance at Sefwi and the coming of the ambassadors to see his Excellency have interrupted the trade since the middle of September, especially the rubber trade which they obtained particularly from Sefwi country, and their object in asking that a Resident might be placed at Wiasu is that the Government might be kept informed of what is going on there, and be more in touch with Sefwi, that, in case of oppression, Her Majesty's subjects there might be reassured and have no fear with regard to defence.

With regard to Sefwi, the Governor mentioned to the deputation that Captain Lang and a French officer had carried on a survey to determine the boundary line between the British and French territories, that, the matter not having been finally settled, another commission will soon be appointed to undertake the work, and he had been in communication with the Governor of Grand Bassam upon the point, and that Mr. Hull who has recently come out from England is to be the head of the English commissioners. His Excellency said that he did not think they would have any difficulty with regard to stagnation of trade when the question was finally settled. The Governor also stated that he had heard that the French had sent up an expedition into the interior and he might mention in passing that he recently received a letter from a king on the other side of the boundary line in which he applied to Mr. Loy, District Commissioner of Axim, to ask him (his Excellency) to send a steamer to some point between Assinie and Grand Bassam for their wives and children, they having been defeated in an engagement with the French, and he had instructed the Commissioner to inform the King that he is within the sphere of French influence. His Excellency thought that things must be left alone until the delimitation took place.

With regard to Ashanti, the Governor said that that country was definitely within the sphere of British influence. But the King of Ashanti must be a party to any arrangements for placing a British agent there; and, in March last, Mr. Hodgson, who was acting as his *locum tenens*, by direction of the Secretary of State, made certain proposals to the King of Ashanti which involved an officer being placed there as an agent who would do somewhat as they proposed, but the King has not sent an answer yet, and he (the Governor) was going to send a mission up to him, as it was nearly eight months since he promised to send an answer. His Excellency has since been informed that the King is sending some men to see him and then go on to England, and expects to know from these men what the King intends to do.

With regard to what the deputation said with regard to passports, his Excellency observed that in making that proposal they appeared to forget that they were Englishmen. His Excellency mentioned a case which had recently been brought to his notice of a

woman who had fled into the Protectorate from Ashanti and of his having directed that the application of Yow Sapon for her delivery up to him should be refused, and the woman to be informed that she was in a free country and can do and go wherever she liked, and asked the deputation how they could expect the British Government, with their knowledge of British opinion with regard to slavery, to favourably consider the proposal they had made.

Mr. Batty said that they made that proposal by way of protecting the master against the servant. That these servants enter into this Colony under a contract with their masters, and that contract is that they would go down to the Coast with them to carry the goods purchased and to return with them, and, so long as they do not illtreat them, it is a legal contract, and they should be protected against these servants deserting them. In some instances, traders, whose servants had deserted them after they had made purchases, had gone back to ask them to take their goods back as they had no carriers to take them with them, that these carriers are mostly decoyed by Hausas at the back of Cape Coast and Saltpond.

The Governor pointed out that in most cases these carriers were compelled to come down with their masters, and the members of the deputation knew very well that any contract made under compulsion was illegal and could not be binding.

The Governor further stated with regard to Ashanti, that he did not know what the Ashantis were going to do, and he thought it was very much better for him not to enter upon that question at present, that there would be two contracting parties—the Ashanti people and themselves—and they could do nothing unless they knew what the Ashantis would do.

The Governor, having pointed out that the information in the hands of the Chamber with regard to produce did not correspond with the reports he had received, introduced the question of railways, and, after some conversation on the subject, said that, without pledging or binding the Government in any way, he was perfectly satisfied that Her Majesty's Government were desirous that railways should be introduced into the Colony under the full conviction that that would be a means of giving an impetus to the trade of the Colony.

Mr. Batty asked his Excellency if they were at liberty to communicate the information to the Chamber of Commerce in England, but the Governor said that he thought it would be better not to give any information to the Chamber at present.

After refreshment and some further conversation the meeting was closed.

No. 49.

LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received August 14, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 56.]

Botolph House, Eastcheap, London, E.C.,
August 3, 1895.

SIR,

I AM directed to inform you that the West African Trade Section of this Chamber have again had under consideration the position of affairs in Ashanti with special reference to the trade in that country through the West Coast of Africa. I am instructed to refer you to communications addressed by this Chamber to your predecessor, Lord Ripon, dated 13th January 1894* and 26th January last† copies of which I enclose herewith, and to the memorial which, as mentioned in my last communication, had been forwarded to his Excellency Sir Brandford Griffith.

I am desired to call your special attention to the continued unsettled state of the country and the hindrances to trade caused thereby, and to urge upon Her Majesty's Government the great desirability of taking immediate steps for the establishment of a system of administration in Ashanti, or for the appointment of a British Resident in that country.

In support of this, I need not enter upon arguments in favour of the course suggested, but would simply refer you to the above communications, and to the satisfactory results that have followed Sir Gilbert Carter's action in Lagos in 1893 with regard to the tribes of the interior.

I am also desired to call your attention to the deputation from this and other Chambers of Commerce which waited upon Lord Ripon on the 25th June last to urge

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* No. 67 in [C. 7917]. † No. 6.

the desirability of the construction of railways in the West African Colonies, beginning with that at the Gold Coast, for which preliminary surveys have been made, and for which funds, at the credit of the Government of the Gold Coast, are available.

Expressing the hope that these matters will receive your kind attention, and that Her Majesty's Government may see their way to adopt the recommendations made.

I am, &c.
KENRIC B. MURRAY.

No. 50.

FOREIGN OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received August 14, 1895.)

SIR, Foreign Office, August 13, 1895.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, in original, a further communication from the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, respecting the affairs of the Gold Coast and Ashanti.

The Chamber of Commerce has been informed that their letter has been referred to the Colonial Office, to which Department it should have been addressed.

I am, &c.
H. PERCY ANDERSON.

Enclosure in No. 50.

AFFAIRS of the GOLD COAST, ASHANTI.

African Trade Section of the Incorporated
Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool,
MY LORD, Liverpool, August 3, 1895.

I AM directed by the committee of the African trade section of this Chamber to draw your attention to the correspondence which has taken place between this Chamber and your Department, on the subject of bringing Ashanti under British protection or of sending British Commissioners to reside at Coomassie and Asafou.

I am further to hand you copy of the following resolution passed by the Committee on Wednesday last, viz. :—

Resolved: That Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs be strongly urged, in the interest of commerce with the Gold Coast, to proclaim the Kingdom of Ashanti a British Protectorate, or at the least to appoint, without further delay, a British Commissioner to reside at Coomassie.

Respectfully asking that the request contained in the resolution may receive your Lordship's very earnest consideration,

I have, &c.
THOMAS H. BARKER,
Secretary.

No. 51.

GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received August 15, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 55.]

Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures,
SIR, Glasgow, August 14, 1895.

I SEND you, herewith, Memorial by the Directors of this Chamber to the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, upon the subject of British Administration in Ashantee, and the Northern Frontiers of the Gold Coast Colony, and shall be obliged by your handing it to him at your early convenience.

I am, &c.
WILLIAM H. HILL,
Secretary.

Enclosure in No. 51.

The MEMORIAL of the CHAMBER of COMMERCE and MANUFACTURES in the CITY of GLASGOW, incorporated by Royal Charter in 1783, confirmed in 1860.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH,

THAT the attention of the Directors of this Chamber has again been directed by merchants of standing in this city, trading with the Gold Coast Colony, West Africa, to the necessity and expediency of an effective British Administration over the Ashantees and other tribes on the Northern Frontier of the Gold Coast Colony.

The Directors may be permitted to refer to the Memorial respectfully addressed by them to your predecessor in office, the Right Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, in January 1894, on this subject, a copy of which is enclosed.*

In acknowledging receipt of this Memorial, Lord Ripon was pleased to inform the Directors that the matters referred to in it were engaging the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government.

Your memorialists desire again most respectfully to press this important subject upon your attention, and to urge that Her Majesty's Government should take into their early and earnest consideration the subject of establishing a system of administration, by protectorate, over the region in question, or in such other way as the Government may deem most effective.

And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

Signed in name, on behalf, and by authority, of a meeting of the Directors of the Chamber of Commerce this fourteenth day of August eighteen hundred and ninety-five years.

WALTER DUNCAN,
President.

No. 52.

H. C. RICHARDS, Esq., M.P., to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received August 17, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 53.]

House of Commons,
August 16, 1895.

DEAR SIR,

LAST evening the Ashanti Mission met Mr. Bigham, Q.C., and myself in the Conference Room of the House, and read the memorial† a copy of which I have now the honour to submit; and in doing so allow me to assure you that I impressed upon the mission that I was in no way deputed by you or by the Government, and that my efforts were confined to submitting their memorial, at the request of my constituents, for your consideration.

We also pointed out to them that the statement of their objects practically refused to accept the establishment of a British Resident, but they seemed to be somewhat confused as to the difference between an Agent and a Resident, but were very anxious to explain their views upon the matter.

This I assured them could only be done in writing, and that the Despatch to which they allude on the second page must be sent in at once if they desired to obtain your answer.

I was also requested to lay before you their credentials, and I shall be only too pleased if you can in any way satisfy them that the object of their visit to England has not been fruitless.

I desire to thank you for your courteous reception of myself, and to remain

Your obedient servant,
H. C. RICHARDS.

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* No. 51 in [C. 7917].

† Not printed.

No. 53.

COLONIAL OFFICE to H. C. RICHARDS, Esq., M.P.

SIR, Downing Street, August 20, 1895.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant,* enclosing a letter and other papers which you had received from Mr. John Ossoo Ansah, and stating that you had impressed on him and his companions that you had not, as they supposed, been deputed in any way by Her Majesty's Government to see them.

2. They were informed by the Governor of the Gold Coast, before they embarked for England, that any proposals which they were bringing from the King of Kumasi must be made to the Governor, as the Queen's representative in that part of the world, and Mr. Chamberlain is unable to give any further answer to their memorial than that they should return to the Gold Coast and communicate their proposals to the Governor. Mr. Chamberlain cannot recognise them as ambassadors or receive them in this country, and I am therefore to return the papers which you sent to him with your letter.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 54.

COLONIAL OFFICE to MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

[*Answered by No.* 74.]

SIR, Downing Street, August 22, 1895.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of 20th May last,† I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acquaint you that he has now received from the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony the memorial of the Cape Coast Chamber of Commerce of which a copy was enclosed in your letter of 11th May.‡

Mr. Chamberlain desires me to say that he is not at present prepared to give a reply to paras. 1 to 8 of the memorial, as the question of the policy to be adopted with respect to Ashanti is still engaging his earnest attention.

I am, however, to acquaint you, as regards para. 9, that Captain Stewart, the Travelling Commissioner, who has recently visited Sefwhi, reports that that district is not in a disturbed state.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 55.

COLONIAL OFFICE to GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR, Downing Street, August 22, 1895.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 14th instant,§ forwarding a memorial from the Directors of your Chamber, and to acquaint you, in reply, that the question of the policy to be adopted with regard to Ashanti is engaging his careful consideration.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

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* No. 52. † No. 41. ‡ No. 39. § No. 51.

No. 56.

COLONIAL OFFICE to LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR, Downing Street, August 22, 1895.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 3rd instant,* urging (1) the establishment of a proper system of administration in Ashanti, and (2) the desirability of the construction of railways in West Africa.

In reply, I am to request you to inform the West African trade section of your Chamber that the questions to which they call his attention are engaging Mr. Chamberlain's careful consideration.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 57.

LIVERPOOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received August 27, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 60.]

AFFAIRS OF THE GOLD COAST, ASHANTI.

The African Trade Section
of the Incorporated
Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool,
SIR, Liverpool, August 26, 1895.

I AM in receipt of a letter from the Foreign Office, dated August 13, in which it is stated that the communication of the 3rd instant,† from this Chamber, relative to the establishment of a British protectorate over Ashanti, had been referred to the Colonial Office, "to which Department it should have been addressed."

That letter of the 3rd instant contained the following resolution passed recently by the Committee of the African Trade Section, viz. :—

"That Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs be strongly urged, in the interests of Commerce with the Gold Coast, to proclaim the Kingdom of Ashanti a British protectorate, or at least to appoint without further delay a British Commissioner to reside at Coomassie."

I have the honour to call your attention to that letter and the resolution therein contained, and am directed to say that the Committee would feel greatly obliged if you could favour them with a statement of your views upon the recommendation there made at your earliest convenience.

I have, &c.
THOMAS H. BARKER,
Secretary.

No. 58.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received August 30, 1895.)

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
August 3rd, 1895.

As it seems desirable that the antecedents of Mr. James H. Brew, who signs himself "Brew of Dunquah" in letters addressed to the Colonial Office, and who has also, I believe, sometimes called himself "Prince-Chief" in London, should be borne in mind, I think it advisable to furnish the following particulars.

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* No. 49. † Enclosure in No. 50.

Mr. Brew is Chief of a small town called Dunquah which is under the King of Abura. He was at one time a solicitor, but was suspended from practice by one of the Judges of the Supreme Court in 1882 or 1883. He is the son of the late Samuel Collins Brew, who was a trader at Anamabu, and at one time District Commissioner of Saltpond.

I need not point out that his position as the headman of a village does not warrant any assumption of rank.

No. 59.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received August 30, 1895.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
SIR, August 5, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report the death of Kwabina Asante, King of Attabubu, and the election of Kofi Amuaku to succeed him. I beg at the same time to enclose a copy of a letter addressed to me by the new King, and the proceedings at an interview which I granted to his messengers on the 2nd instant.

2. The principal feature of this matter is the execution of a native of Kumasi for the alleged murder of the late King of Attabubu by poison. It remains to be seen whether this incident will be resented by the people of Kumasi and lead to hostilities.

I have, &c.
WILLIAM MAXWELL.

Enclosure 1 in No. 59.

The KING and CHIEFS of ATABUBU to the GOVERNOR.

SIR, Atabubu, June 13, 1895.

MAY it please your Excellency. We, the King and Chiefs of Atabubu, regret to communicate to your Excellency the sad intelligence of the death of King Kwabina Asante of Atabubu under whose illustrious rule our country was brought under the protection of Her most gracious Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland. Under the pretence of curing the King of an illness, two men from Ashanti administered poison to him and he died in less than three hours afterwards. One of the men ran away but was captured, he is called Ejei Mann. The other Kwamin Ponn represented that he had no knowledge of the intentions of Ejei Mann who brought the poison with him from Ashanti. The circumstances of the case were investigated and considered by us, capital punishment was inflicted on Ejei Mann, a fine of 6*l.* 18*s.* was inflicted on Kwamin Ponn, and two women of the King's household whose duty it was to have informed us, the Chiefs, of the transactions before the drug was administered have also been punished with a fine. Everyone was given a fair trial, and for forty days the matter was under our consideration.

Kofi Amoako, nephew of the late King Kwabina Asante, has succeeded to the stool of Atabubu. We write this letter therefore to assure your Excellency of our allegiance to the Queen, and at the same time to offer to you our congratulations on your assuming the government of the Gold Coast Colony.

We also take the opportunity of our messengers coming down to your Excellency to request that our grateful thanks may be offered to Governor Hodgson who sent soldiers here to protect us against the Ashantees, because we are certain that, had he not taken prompt measures in despatching his officers here, Colonel Scott preceded by Mr. Ferguson, we should have been carried off by the wave of Ashanti operations against Nkoranza and the Brong tribes ere our protectors would have known of our whereabouts. We understand that certain Coomasie messengers have gone down to the coast to ask that the Brong tribes may be restored to the Ashantees. We are now enjoying a blessing which we never did under the rule of Ashanti, viz., that of seeing our children's children prospering in our midst and not taken away wholesale to Coomasie. We do not believe that the English will give us over to the Coomasees, and can only repeat the request which we made through Mr. Ferguson to the Government in 1890

that should any application be made by Ashanti in this regard that it should not be entertained with favourable considerations.

We remain, &c.

		Their
Kofi Amoaku,	King of Atabubu	×
Kweku Mensa,	Chief of Prasi	×
Kwamin Akojina,	Chief of Anumaku	×
Kwaku Ata,	Chief of Pomako	×
Kwasi Wusu,	The Linguist	×
Kojo Wusu,	Chief of Ejena	×
Kwasi Duaku,	Chief of Adeu	×
Kukwa,	Chief of Okwasi and Chief Linguist of Atabubu	×
Kwamin Wusu,	Chief of the King's household	×
Kwamin Amoaku,	Chief of Konrope	×
Kwamin Kive,	Heir Apparent	×
Kwabina Toa,	The Linguist	×
Yaw Nyame,	The Linguist	×
Ejei Berekoa,	Chief of Soroki	×
Kwamin Sanfu,	Chief of Senoki	×
Kra Buam,	Chief of Senyenu	×
Ediya,	Princess	×

Marks.

To His Excellency
William Edward Maxwell, Esq., C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Gold Coast Colony.

Jones A. Hyher,
Writer.

Enclosure 2 in No. 59.

At Government House, Christiansborg Castle, on Friday the 2nd August 1895, Governor W. E. Maxwell, Esq., C.M.G., accompanied by the Honourable F. M. Hodgson, C.M.G., and Lieutenant F. B. Henderson, R.N., Private Secretary, granted an interview to Kwadjo Kwa, Kwadjo Ben, and Kwaku Fokuo, messengers from the King of Atabubu.

Mr. A. Reinhold, 2nd class clerk, Colonial Secretary's Office, interpreted.

The Governor.—I understand that you have come from Atabubu.

Messengers.—Yes, Sir.

The Governor.—You have been sent by the King with a message to me.

Messengers.—Yes, Sir.

The Governor.—Very well. Will you now repeat your message.

Messengers.—The King with his Chiefs and people sends his compliments to your Excellency. Our King is dead and the new King has sent us to come and report it to the Governor.

The Governor.—The late King was Kwabina Asante?

Messengers.—Yes, Sir.

The Governor.—And the new King is called?

Messengers.—Kofi Amuaku.

The Governor.—Has he been elected unanimously by the Chiefs according to native custom?

Messengers.—He was elected according to native custom.

The Governor.—Is there anything that you choose to tell me with regard to the death of the late King?

Messengers.—Everything is written in the letter we brought down.

The Governor.—The murderer who was executed and the other man who was fined were both Ashantis, were they not?

Messengers.—Yes, Sir.

The Governor.—Were they Kumasi people?

Messengers.—One was a Juabin and the other a Kumasi man.

The Governor.—Was the man executed from Kumasi or Juabin ?

Messengers.—He was from Kumasi.

The Governor.—The palaver lasted 40 days.

Messengers.—Yes, Sir.

The Governor.—Was any notice sent to Kumasi by the Chiefs of Atabubu of what they were doing ?

Messengers.—We have nothing to do with them, therefore the Chiefs did not send anybody to them.

The Governor.—Very well. I have duly received this letter. I have read it and understood it, and the Colonial Secretary will write an answer which you can take back to your King. As soon as the letter is ready the Colonial Secretary will give it to you, then you can return. I have an officer at present in that part of the country who is making a road from Tinkranku down to Kpong. A letter will be written to that officer (Mr. Ferguson) requesting him to go to Atabubu and ascertain, for my information, that the King has been put on the Stool properly according to native custom. Mr. Ferguson will be authorized, if he finds everything in order, to recognise the King on my behalf and make the necessary customary present.

Messengers.—Thank you, Sir.

Interview closed.

No. 60

COLONIAL OFFICE to LIVERPOOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

[*Answered by No.* 67.]

SIR, Downing Street, August 30, 1895.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 26th instant,* asking for an expression of his views on the resolution passed by the Committee of the African Trade Section of your Chamber, urging that a British protectorate should be proclaimed over Ashanti, or that, at least, a British Commissioner should be appointed to reside at Coomassie.

In reply, I am to acquaint you, that the question of the policy to be adopted with regard to Ashanti is engaging Mr. Chamberlain's serious consideration, and the resolution of your Chamber will receive his best attention.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 61.

J. OSSOO ANSAH, ESQ., to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received September 6, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 63.]

Ashanti Embassy, 13, Lennox Gardens, S.W.,
SIR, September 5, 1895.

INFORMATION from a reliable source having reached me that the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony is preparing an expedition to Kumasi, for what reason, warlike or otherwise, we know not, I am under the necessity of bringing this to your notice in the event of your being unaware of the fact; and I would respectfully ask whether this is so.

I have, &c.
JOHN OSSOO ANSAH, P.,
of Ashanti.

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* No. 57.

Enclosure in No. 61.*

Ashanti Embassy, 13, Lennox Gardens, S.W.,
September 5, 1895.

SIR,

YOU will no doubt have heard of the arrival in this country of an Embassy from the King of Ashanti, charged to treat with Her Majesty's Government on certain matters of great interest to your people and his; of this mission I am the head.

My king despatched the mission to treat direct with the British Government, owing to the action of the then Governor of the Gold Coast Colony having rendered it impossible for him to carry on negotiations with the late Governor, as, while professing friendly relations, that official was at the very time seeking to detach from the king certain of his feudatories.

On the arrival of the mission at Cape Coast Castle we met the Governor, and, out of courtesy to him as the sole representative of Her Majesty in that part of the world, we informed him that our king had despatched us on a mission to Her Majesty and Her Government; the Governor then forbade us from proceeding here, but we were bound to carry out the orders of our king, and come on to England.

In May last we communicated the fact of our arrival in London to Her Majesty's Government, and solicited an interview, but that was refused us on the grounds (*a*) that before our departure from Cape Coast Castle we had been informed that Her Majesty's Government would not receive us; (*b*) that our king was not King of Ashanti, but only of Kumasi, and, as such, was not a monarch of sufficient importance to despatch an embassy to the Queen; (*c*) that he allowed and countenanced human sacrifice. We replied to these three points so raised, stating why we were compelled to proceed hither, proving out of Government Blue Books that our king had from the very day of his accession been recognised by the British Government as King of Ashanti, and that human sacrifice had ceased. The late Government did not reply to this Despatch before it went out of office, but the present Government, on their attention being drawn to it, replied refusing to receive us or to hear us, for the reasons given by the previous Government.

Subsequently Mr. H. C. Richards, M.P., acting as intermediary, was deputed by Mr. Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to see us. Mr. Richards wrote that, "if the mission will put into writing their answer to the Queen's message, their reply "to our demand for a Resident, and their pledge for the discontinuance of all human "sacrifices, he will receive such communication through me, and return to them, through "me, the answer of the Government."

On this intimation we saw Mr. Richards in the House of Commons, by appointment, and, as requested, I handed to him a written reply to the above questions, together with my credentials, which he said he would present to the right honourable gentleman, and on behalf of my king I pledged myself that the practice of human sacrifice, which had been prohibited since his accession, should never be revived. Mr. Richards forwarded the credentials and communication on to Mr. Chamberlain. Mr. Richards, amongst other things, informed us that our king was charged with making raids on other native tribes to capture prisoners whom he sold as slaves. This we deny, and assert to be utterly untrue, and there is no evidence or even statement in any Parliamentary Blue Book known to us of such conduct ever being at any time imputed to our king or his people.

Knowing what we do, and having just had reliable information that the present Governor of the Gold Coast is preparing an expedition, warlike or otherwise, to Kumasi, and bearing in mind the anxiety of our king to remain on the best footing with the British Government, and to avoid, in the interest of humanity, any complications, we have resolved to continue our efforts to obtain an interview with Her Majesty's Government here, being confident that it will result in the removal and adjustment of all differences in the views of the two Governments as to the situation; and we humbly solicit your good offices and support to hasten and bring this about—our Embassy having already been in this country over four months.

I have, &c.
JOHN OSSO ANSAH, P.

* This letter, which appears to be a circular, being lithographed, was enclosed with No. 61.

No. 62.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.
(Sent 7.30 p.m., September 6, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

[*Answered by No.* 66.]

(EXTRACT.)

Her Majesty's Government have had under their careful consideration your Despatch of 13th June,* and, in accordance with, their decision, I have to instruct you to send a message to King of Kumasi to the following effect:—

Her Majesty's Government are satisfied from the evidence submitted to them that the King has violated the Treaty of Fommanah by the encouragement and practice of human sacrifices, by placing hindrances in the way of trade, and by not carrying out the guarantee contained in Article VII. with regard to the maintenance of the road from Coomassie to the Prah River. He has also made attacks upon tribes with whom the British Government are in friendly relations, and who have sought the protection of the Queen.

By his conduct and the state of warfare and unrest in which it has involved the country the development of trade and free communication between the colony and the interior has been checked and interfered with.

Her Majesty's Government regard this condition of affairs as intolerable and they cannot allow it to continue.

They must, therefore, require the King to carry out his treaty engagements and to refrain from making attacks upon his neighbours, and, in order to effectually secure these objects, it is necessary that he should consent to a British Resident being established at Kumasi, who will exercise control over him in these respects but will not otherwise interfere with the administration or institutions of the country.

You may also remind the King that the indemnity of 50,000 ounces of gold which was stipulated for in the Treaty of Fommanah has not yet been paid.

You should inform the King that you will be prepared to meet him personally either at Kumasi or at some place on the road between there and Prahsu, to receive his answer. I leave the decision on this point to your discretion, as also the fixing of the time at which the answer must be given.

You should further inform the King that Her Majesty has decided to extend her protection to Mo, NKoranza, and the other tribes who have asked for it, and you will make the necessary communication to these tribes accordingly.

The King should be told that his messengers have not been, and will not be, received or recognised in England, and that Her Majesty's Government can only receive his answer through you, who are the Queen's representative.

In the event of a military expedition becoming necessary, would you be satisfied with an extra battalion of West Indian troops instead of a white or Indian regiment? There are many objections to sending either of these latter if it can be avoided.

If you think West India troops will suffice, I shall be prepared to consult War Office as to sending out stores and special service officers from England and the despatch of troops from Sierra Leone.

Inform me by telegraph of the exact number of troops you would require, and let me know as soon as possible the result of your communication to the King.

No. 63.

COLONIAL OFFICE to J. OSSOO ANSAH, ESQ.

SIR, Downing Street, September 9, 1895.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 5th instant.† With it you enclose a copy of a lithographed circular in which Mr. Chamberlain notices a paragraph to the effect that he had deputed Mr. H. C. Richards, M.P., acting as an intermediary, to see you, and that Mr. Richards had informed you that if you would put in writing your answer to the Queen's message, your reply to the

* No. 45. † No. 61.

demand for a Resident, and your pledge for the discontinuance of human sacrifices, Mr. Chamberlain would receive it through Mr. Richards and return through him the answer of the Government.

With reference to this statement, I am to inform you that Mr. Richards submitted to Mr. Chamberlain a memorial from yourself and the other Ashanti messengers, assuring him at the same time that he had "impressed upon the mission that I was in no way "deputed by you or by the Government."

In reply to Mr. Richards's communication, Mr. Chamberlain caused the letter* of which a copy is enclosed to be addressed to him, from which you will see that the statement made in your circular letter is incorrect.

As you have already been informed, the present Governor of the Gold Coast has received full instructions as to the communication to be made on behalf of the Queen to the King of Kumasi, and if you desire to be of use to your king during the negotiations now about to take place you will lose no time in returning to the West Coast, so as to take part in them. The king will be informed that you have been invited to return at once for this purpose.

I am, &c.
R. H. MEADE.

No. 64.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.
(Sent September 11, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

[*Answered by No. 76.*]

When you communicate with the King of Coomassie, you should inform him that his messengers have been invited by me to return at once if they desire to be of use to him during the forthcoming negotiations. These negotiations, however, must not be delayed by him for their arrival.

No. 65.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

SIR, Downing Street, September 13, 1895.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquis of Lansdowne, copies of correspondence† with the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, respecting the relations between the Colonial Government and the King of Kumasi.

Lord Lansdowne will observe that Governor Maxwell has been instructed to send a further message to the King, calling upon him to accede to the demands of Her Majesty's Government, and it is hoped that the Governor may be able by peaceful negotiation to induce the King to comply with those demands.

In the event of failure it may, however, become necessary to send a military expedition to enforce compliance, and Lord Lansdowne may therefore think it desirable that the military authorities should consider as to what will be required in such a case, though of course no immediate action can be taken.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

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* No. 53. † Nos. 25, 45, and 62.

No. 66.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received September 16, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

(EXTRACT.)

Referring to your telegram* respecting the ultimatum to the King of Coomassie, I am sending Stewart and Vroom at once. I have given the 31st of October as the date before which a reply must be sent.

No. 67.

LIVERPOOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received September 26, 1895.)

"ASHANTI."

The African Trade Section of
The Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool,
Liverpool, September 25, 1895.

SIR,

YOUR letter, dated 30th ult.,† acknowledging receipt of copy of resolution passed by the African Trade Section of this Chamber urging that a British Protectorate should be proclaimed over Ashanti, or that, at least, a British Commissioner should be appointed to reside at Coomassie, and saying that the expression of the views of the section will receive your best attention, has been laid before the Committee of the Section.

They direct me to draw your attention to the benefit to Lagos which has resulted from the settlement there of the roads question two years ago, and they desire me to urge, in view of the constant disturbances arising at the Gold Coast on the side of Ashanti, and the frequent derangement of the trade of the Colony resulting therefrom that the steps which have been long under consideration may be taken to bring Ashant more completely under British control.

I have, &c.
THOMAS H. BARKER,
Secretary.

No. 68.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.
(Sent September 26, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

[*Answered by No.* 72.]

A suggestion has been made that it might be advisable to send a strong detachment of Houssas at once to Prahsue with guns to form a camp as a demonstration. You may carry out this suggestion, if you consider it desirable to do so, in view of your negotiations with the King of Kumasi.

No. 69.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.
(Sent September 26, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

[*Answered by No.* 77.]

Send home as early as possible Sir Francis Scott to confer with War Office, and give information as to expedition in event of King of Kumasi not coming to terms.

Larymore leaves by to-morrow's mail.

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* No. 62.

† No. 60.

No. 70.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received 3.45 p.m., September 27, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Returned head-quarters. Scott embarked for home by steamer "Accra" 27th September.

No. 71.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received September 28, 1895.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
SIR, September 5, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of a letter from the Rev. E. Perregaux, a missionary of the Basel Mission, who has lately made a tour through Ashanti Akim, visiting Bompata, Odumasi (Juabin), Patriansa and Agogo. His report as to Ashanti affairs is not without interest at the present juncture.

I have, &c.
WILLIAM MAXWELL.

Enclosure in No. 71.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

JUST returning from a journey to Asante-Akem, I take the liberty to bring to your knowledge some facts I gathered on my way.

1. As you surely know to-day, the King Perempe is not dead; many merchants saw him in person and told our teacher Kwafo, who is at Odumase (Dwabeng), that he uses to make them presents and to be very kind to them (Asante policy!).

2. I heard from many sides that the Kongs have defeated the Gyamangs and lately sent messengers with a secret message to Perempe. Thereupon the King sent word to his Chiefs to come to Commassee for deliberation. I could not ascertain the contents of the message. Are they to join together for destroying both Gyamans and Nkoranzas. I cannot know. I told our teacher Kwafo to send me news as soon as he hears anything.

3. When the Commassee messengers left for Europe they sent message to the King to take good care that nobody may be killed during their absence, that the English Government may have no ground to begin war. This made the King and his Chiefs (especially those of Mampong, Nsuta and Kumawu) most perplexed.

Nevertheless—

4. A slave of Perempe called Gyakari, who escaped from Commassee and is now staying at Bompata, since June, told me that when Inspector Middlemist left for Accra and one of his Hausas was killed, the King ordered 10 of his slaves, and 11 of those of his Chiefs to be killed, and two others were sent to Bremang (the burial place of the Kings) to be killed there. He saw it with his own eyes, and hearing that he would be accused by a free man of a small offence he feared to be killed too and fled to Asante-Akem.

5. It is common saying in Asante-Akem, and especially at Patriaensa, that as soon as the messengers come back, if they bring bad news, there will be war, and, as they say in Patriaensa, they will first kill the Christians and then go over to Asante. That this is their mind indeed, they proved it by trying to kill a slave who wanted to become a Christian. I should have reported you the whole palaver, had they not asked for forgiveness and agreed to set the man free as a compensation. They are all expecting great results from the embassy! Of course, what I write under No. 5 is only idle talk, but it shows the mind of the people; whereas Nos. 1–4 are pure facts.

Your Excellency, excuse me if I felt compelled to write you these facts. I found it my duty to do so.

I have, &c.
EDM. PERREGAUX,
Missionary at Abetifi.

To the Governor and
Commander-in-Chief of the Gold Coast Colony.

No. 72.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received September 28, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Referring to your telegram of 26th September,* will adopt suggestion.

No. 73.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

SIR, Downing Street, October 4, 1895.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquis of Lansdowne, a copy of a telegram* which was sent to the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony on the 26th ultimo, suggesting that a strong force of Houssas should be sent to Prahsu to act as a demonstration.

A telegram† has been received from the Governor, in reply, stating that he will adopt the suggestion.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 74.

THE MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received October 7, 1895.)

Chamber of Commerce, Manchester,
SIR, October 5, 1895.

I AM instructed by the Board of Directors of this Chamber to thank you for the letter of August 22nd,‡ written by your direction, informing me that the question of the policy to be adopted with regard to Ashantee was then occupying your attention.

I am respectfully to express the hope that you will be able to decide in favour of the prayer of the memorial of the Cape Coast Chamber of Commerce that a British Resident should be placed in Coomassie. In the opinion of the Board, such a step would go far towards preventing the recurrence of the disturbances, and would have the hearty support of all interested in trade with the Gold Coast Colony.

I have, &c.
ELIJAH HELM,
Secretary.

No. 75.

THE LIVERPOOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received October 9, 1895.)

AFFAIRS OF ASHANTI.

The African Trade Section of
The Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool,
SIR, Liverpool, October 8, 1895.

REFERRING to the expression of the views of the African Trade Section of this Chamber on the subject of the extension of British control over Ashanti recently sent to you,§ and also to negotiations which the Committee of the Section understand are going on between Her Majesty's Government and the King of Ashanti, I am directed to impress upon you the importance of stipulating, in any treaty that may be made, for freedom of trade with Ashanti.

I have, &c.
THOMAS H. BARKER,
Secretary.

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* No. 68. † No. 72. ‡ No. 54. § No. 67.

No. 76.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received October 17, 1895.)

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,
SIR, September 26, 1895.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 11th instant,* in which I am informed that the Kumasi messengers now in England have been invited to return, I have observed a paragraph in the "Times" of the 28th August, under the head of "Political Notes," announcing that "the Ashanti envoys are determined not to leave the country without another effort to secure an audience" and that "during the recess the two "Princes, who speak English, will lay their case before various members of Parliament "* * * and a series of meetings may also be arranged."

2. It is generally surmised here, where the character of the Ansahs is well known, that, under cover of the business of their mission, they will endeavour to remain in England as long as possible with a view to their own pecuniary advantage, as it is believed that they still continue to receive remittances from Kumasi, and are endeavouring to turn their visit to England to account by obtaining credit from British merchants.

3. In support of this last allegation, I have the honour to transmit to you an extract from a private letter which has been placed at my disposal. I should be glad if it were possible to warn British manufacturers, merchants, and tradesmen, that these persons (the Messrs. Ansah) have no credit in their own country (Cape Coast), and that, though residents of the Gold Coast Colony and amenable to our laws, they have no property here to meet liabilities of any extent.

I have, &c.
WILLIAM MAXWELL.

Enclosure in No. 76.

* * * * * * *

We have been offered here a business by one of the Ashanti Princes. He would require credit to some extent. It would probably begin with about 500*l.*, and might if successful rise to about 2,000*l.* The business we are told is carried on by the Prince, who lives at Cape Coast. He receives the goods there and then sends them up to Coomassie to his brother or cousin.

I know you are well acquainted with these gentlemen, and, as such, may I venture to ask in strict confidence your opinion of them, and if you consider it a fair and reasonable business risk? The question occurring to my mind is whether in the event of their not paying we should be able to sue them in the Cape Coast or Elmina Court. Are they amenable to English laws?

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No. 77.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received October 17, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 87.]

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,
SIR, September 26, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of the ultimatum which I have despatched to the King of Kumasi, in accordance with the instructions conveyed to me in your telegrams of the 7th and 11th instant,† and of the instructions which I have given to Captain Stewart and Mr. Vroom, who left Cape Coast for Kumasi this morning.

I have, &c.
WILLIAM MAXWELL.

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* No. 64.

† Nos. 62 and 64.

Enclosure 1 in No. 77.

From GOVERNOR to KING OF KUMASI.

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,
September 23, 1895.

KING,

I WHO write to you am the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony and the representative of Her Majesty the Queen. I send two of my officers, Captain Stewart and Mr. Vroom, to you to deliver and explain to you the following important message to which I beg you to give your most serious attention.

I have been for more than five months at Accra and you have no doubt been expecting to receive a letter from me, for you know well that things are not settled between this Colony and Kumasi. When now at length I write to you, you will, I hope, understand that my words are not light ones, and that I require an explicit answer.

This is what I have to say:

Her Majesty's Government are satisfied, upon evidence submitted to them, that you have violated the treaty of Fommanah by the encouragement and practice of human sacrifices, by placing hindrances in the way of trade and by failing to carry out the guarantee contained in Article 7 of the said treaty with regard to the construction and maintenance of a road from Kumasi to the Prah river.

You and your people have often made attacks upon tribes who are in friendly relations with the British Government and who have sought the protection of Her Majesty the Queen.

By your conduct and the state of war and unrest in which the country has been involved, the development of trade and freedom of communication between this Colony and the interior have been checked and interfered with.

Her Majesty's Government regard this condition of affairs as intolerable and cannot allow it to continue.

They must therefore require you to fulfil your treaty engagements, and to refrain from attacking your neighbours, and, in order that these objects may be effectually secured, it is necessary that you should consent to the establishment of a British Resident at Kumasi who will exercise control over you in these respects, but will not otherwise interfere with the administration or institutions of the country.

I desire to remind you also, though I do not at this moment demand the amount, that the indemnity of 50,000 ounces of gold, the payment of which was stipulated for in the treaty of Fommanah, has not yet been paid.

I now ask for your answer to the demand of Her Majesty's Government that you shall consent to the establishment of a British Resident at Kumasi who will see that what was promised by treaty will be performed.

My officers are not instructed to wait for this. They will return as soon as this letter has been fully explained to you. Your answer can be sent to me by your own messengers, but I give you notice that there must be no undue delay and that your reply must reach me at Accra by the 31st October next.

Before concluding, I have to inform you that Her Majesty has decided to extend her protection to the King of Nkoranza and to all other tribes who have asked for it, and I warn you against interfering with any of the tribes to whom that protection is extended.

The messengers whom you sent to England have not been, and will not be, recognised there in any way and you must clearly understand that Her Majesty's Government can only receive your answer through me, who am Her Majesty's representative.

The Secretary of State has invited your messengers to return to Kumasi at once, and if they are wise they will act upon this advice so that they may be of use to you in your deliberations. It must be understood, however, that your answer to the demand which I have communicated to you must not be delayed because they have not arrived.

I am, King, your good friend,

King Kwaku Dua III., of Kumasi.

WILLIAM MAXWELL.

Enclosure 2 in No. 77.

(Extract.)

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,
September 23, 1895.

INSTRUCTIONS for CAPTAIN STEWART and Mr. VROOM.

Her Majesty's Government having instructed me to send an ultimatum to the King of Kumasi, I have selected you to be the bearers of it.

You will proceed to Kumasi with all despatch, and I wish my letter to the King to be delivered to him early in October.

You will, of course, comply with all reasonable native etiquette, though you will use your own discretion in dispensing with this, if it is obviously used as an excuse for delaying your arrival at, or departure from, Kumasi. It is possible that you may not be received (on the plea that the matter has been referred to England by means of the messengers sent there, or for some similar reason). In this case, you can deliver the letter to any person authorised to receive it, and you must insist, as far as possible, that it shall be received and conveyed to the King. If you are refused permission to proceed, and if no responsible person will receive the letter, you must protest strongly and warn the persons concerned that their action is unfriendly and that the consequences may be serious. You will then return, bringing back the letter.

You will refuse any presents of value offered to yourselves or to the Colonial Government, but you can, of course, accept customary presents of cattle, goats, fruit, vegetables, etc., returning the equivalent in money or kind.

When my letter has been read to the King, you should ask him whether he desires to meet me personally, and you can state that if he sends messengers to me at once (they can come with you) inviting me to his country, I am prepared to meet him in the Adansi district to receive his answer, provided that this can be done before the 31st October.

I desire to impress upon you the extreme importance of, as far as possible, confining the matter in dispute to Kumasi, its King and people. Her Majesty's Government have no desire to hold other Kings and Chiefs of tribes who may at some time or other have been part of the Ashanti confederation responsible for the acts and defaults of King Prempeh. On the contrary, I am authorised, on behalf of Her Majesty, to extend Her protection to any such King or Chief who may have asked for it [and who may by the execution of a treaty (in, or similar to, the form annexed) bind himself to enter the Protectorate of the Gold Coast Colony].

In order to give effect to this policy, I wish you, on your way to Kumasi, to inform the King of Adansi (King Inkansa), who is living at Barasiakun within the Colony, that he can now return to his country under the protection of Her Majesty, and you should also take an opportunity of informing King Yow Boatin secretly that an ultimatum (the terms can be explained to him) is being sent to Kumasi, and that if he (the King of Bekwai) wishes to disassociate himself from Kumasi and put himself under British protection he must lose no time in doing officially what he has already done secretly. He can be told that upon the execution by him of a treaty with the Governor of the Gold Coast he will be received into the Protectorate. He will probably ask that a detachment of Hausas may be sent up to Bekwai, and you can say that I shall be willing to arrange for this at an early date, if convinced of his loyalty and of the feasibility of the step from a military point of view. If you think it safe to do so, you can, when returning, leave the greater part of the escort under Captain Cramer at some place on the main road not far from Bekwai; another detachment with two 7-pr. guns and a Maxim gun will be placed at Prahsu ready to reinforce Captain Cramer's detachment, if necessary.

It will be important that you should ascertain as far as possible the relative power of Kumasi and Bekwai.

When the letter of which you are the bearers has been read at Kumasi, there will be no further reason for keeping secret the terms of the ultimatum and it is my intention to let these be known in Mampong, Nsuta, Agogo, Kumawu, Kwahu, Nkoranza, and possibly in Sefwi and Gaman also, it being carefully explained in all those places that it is with Kumasi alone that any question is at issue, and that no other people will be held responsible for the faults of Kumasi, provided that they separate themselves from King Prempeh and place themselves under Her Majesty's protection.

It is not necessary that you should remain at Kumasi to bring back the King's answer. You should request that his answer may be sent to me so as to reach me at Accra by or before the 31st October. You can say that, whatever it is, I shall transmit it to Her Majesty's Government and you should warn the King that the only person through whom he can communicate with Her Majesty's Government is the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, who is Her Majesty's representative and that no message sent direct or through any other person or authority than the Governor will be recognised.

A detachment of Hausa constabulary under Captain Cramer will accompany you as an escort. Dr. Buée will also be attached to the mission as medical officer.

I wish you to ascertain, if possible, while in Ashanti territory, what foundation there is for the rumour of the murder at Insuta of 16 Fantis, belonging to Essekuma in the Colony, while trading in Ashanti some months ago.

No. 78

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received October 21, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

(EXTRACT.)

On the 17th instant Stewart and his party returned to Prahsu all well. I understand from a private letter that their reception at Kumasi was friendly and that there was an evident desire to please. The road was voluntarily cleared from the Prah to Kumasi for the passage of the mission. I am awaiting the reply to the ultimatum.

No. 79.

MESSRS. GRUNDY, KERSHAW, SAXON, SAMSON, & Co., to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received October 24, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 80.]

4, New Court, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C.,
October 23, 1895.

SIR,

WE are instructed by Mr. George Reckless, of No. 11, Kensington Terrace, to notify to you the fact that he holds a concession from the Ministers and Chief of Ashanti for the formation of a British Chartered Company, for the purpose of opening up and developing the country, including the acquisition of mining and other rights, of the right to construct railways, and other public works.

The concession also provides for the establishment of a Resident Agent and of Courts of Justice, and for the formation of a constabulary, and also authorises the agent of the company to settle the boundaries of the country, with the officials of the British Government. Inasmuch as this concession appears to empower the proposed company to carry out all the objects which the British Government have in view, we shall be glad to know whether you will be prepared to grant our client an interview in order to discuss the matter.

We understand that our client has made arrangements under which the necessary capital required for the purpose of carrying out the scheme, will be provided.

We are, &c.
GRUNDY, KERSHAW, SAXON, SAMSON, & Co.

No. 80.

COLONIAL OFFICE to MESSRS. GRUNDY, KERSHAW, SAXON, SAMSON, & Co.

[*Answered by No.* 82.]

Downing Street, October 26, 1895.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 23rd inst.* respecting a concession alleged to have been obtained by Mr. G. Reckless from the "Ministers and Chief of Ashanti."

Mr. Chamberlain desires me to state that he would, in the first instance, desire to be furnished with a copy of the concession, and to be informed with whom it was negotiated, and where, and at what date.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

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* No. 79.

No. 81.

J. E. HARRIS, Esq., to the EARL OF SELBORNE.
(Received October 29, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 94.]

95, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.,
October 26, 1895.

My Lord,

In company with Mr. Ernest Spencer, M.P., I, on Friday last, attended at the Colonial Office to interview your Lordship on the Ashantee question now engaging the attention of your Department of Her Majesty's Government. Your Lordship, however, refused to receive me, not, as I understand, as expressive of any personal discourtesy towards myself, but simply that as I professionally represent the envoys from the King of Ashantee, your Lordship did not think it meet to do so in the absence of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Your Lordship, was, however, good enough to inform Mr. Spencer that any communication I might address you would receive your attention, and the attention of Mr. Chamberlain. It is on the faith, therefore, of that promise that I venture to thus address your Lordship, not alone as representative of my clients, but also as representative of the English public, whom, I am sure, would fully re-echo the sentiments I but too poorly express.

According to my instructions it would appear, in the first place, that the King of Ashantee does not appreciate the effect of the ultimatum, nor does he, I am told, appreciate the result that may follow unless the demands of the British Government are at once conceded. I am also informed that the Envoys at the moment in London are the only persons qualified to advise their King, and inasmuch he is deprived of that advice, I fear that when a military expedition arrives at Comassie, the King and his people will be entirely ignorant of the object of the mission. Your Lordship will probably reply, "that is not the fault of the British Government," and perhaps rightly too; but yet the fact remains, and I trust your Lordship will, under those circumstances forgive my pointing it out. The position, however, is in a sense altered, for your Lordship by now has been acquainted with the fact that the King, by his representatives here, has agreed to grant to a British company a Charter for the opening up of Ashantee to British enterprise and skill, and in fact, the company will inherit even greater control over the country than the Government ask for. Under those circumstances I ask that at all events, the mission may be postponed, in order that the Company may carry out the objects of its Charter, the more particularly so as that document will fully and fairly give to our Government the demands made. I need hardly point out to your Lordship that by adopting this course, war is prevented, if indeed war is threatened. Messrs. Grundy, Kershaw, Saxon, and Samson, are, I am informed, acting for the Concessionaire, who is ready to show his *bona fides* in a substantial manner. Naturally the position I occupy in this matter is one of a novel character, but I trust your Lordship, in company with Mr. Chamberlain, will acquit me entirely of any interest in its solution, excepting that I am acting with a desire necessarily becoming an Englishman. I therefore ask your anxious consideration, and if it is accorded, I cannot but feel that I need [not ?] offer any apology for the somewhat lengthy nature of my communication. Awaiting the favour of your early consideration,

I have, &c.
J. E. HARRIS.

No. 82.

Messrs. GRUNDY, KERSHAW, SAXON, SAMSON & Co. to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received October 31, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 95.]

4, New Court, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C.,
October 30, 1895.

Sir,

Referring to your letter of the 26th instant,* we now send you enclosed a copy of the concession for which you ask, and which we believe will give you all the information you require.

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*No. 80.

Our client requests us to inform you that he is quite prepared to give substantial proof of his *bona fides*.

We are, &c.
GRUNDY, KERSHAW, SAXON, SAMSON & CO.

Enclosure in No. 82.

To GEORGE RECKLESS, Esquire, and to all to whom these presents shall come:—

Whereas we the undersigned being Princes and Chiefs respectively of Ashanti and John Ossoo Ansah being Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of Ashanti who is possessed of all power and authority from our King, did on the twentieth day of September last agree that in the interests of the Ashanti nation it would be meet that a British Company should be incorporated for the purposes of acquiring all rights now possessed by the King of Ashanti in the dominions over which he rules.

Now we the undersigned agree when called upon to execute in our own names and in the name of the King of Ashanti and for and on his behalf an effectual charter for the purposes of giving mining and other rights to the said Company, for the purposes also of railway construction and other public works, to employ skilled and other labour, to build manufactories, lay out townships, construct waterworks, and waterways, to appoint and maintain a resident agent or agents; to organise a constabulary, to erect a mint and issue coinage, establish factories for trading and other purposes, to establish banks, to grant licenses for trading, mining, and other purposes, to impose such duties as may be deemed expedient on goods imported into the country, to lay out and cultivate plantations for all kinds of vegetable and other products, to establish schools for elementary, technical, and scientific education, to publish newspapers, to aid in the organisation of the military forces of the Kingdom, to assist the King in his Government, including the administration of justice and the codification of laws, the King to undertake to protect life and property and the rights and privileges accorded to the Chartered Company as herein-before mentioned, the King to receive an annual grant from the Company of one-fourth of the nett profits. The Company undertaking to commence to carry out the foregoing operations within one year from the date of the granting of the Charter. British labour and industry is to be fully encouraged and recognised. The said Company to be at liberty to do any matter, act, or thing which in its opinion shall be deemed necessary or expedient; the agent to be at liberty to settle the boundaries of Ashanti with the officials of the English Government. And I, the said John Ossoo Ansah, either with or without the consent of the undersigned Chiefs agree if and when called upon to execute any further deed, document, or charter for more effectually vesting in the Company the aforesaid right. It being intended that the said Company shall have the same extensive rights as at present enjoyed by the British South Africa Company whose objects have been fully explained to us and each of us.

In witness whereof we the undersigned have hereunto set our hands, names, signs, and seals in the presence of each other this twenty-first day of October one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five.

JOHN OSSO ANSAH, of Ashanti,	×	(L.S.)
KWAMIN BOATIN, Chief of Ashanti,	×	(L.S.)
KWAKU FOKOO, Linguist of Ashanti,	×	(L.S.)
KWAKU INKRUMAH, Capn. of Chamberlain,	×	(L.S.)
ALBT. A. OSSOO ANSAH, C. of Ashanti,	×	(L.S.)
KWABINA BONDA, Court Crier,	×	(L.S.)

Signed, sealed, and delivered as indicated hereon, by the said Chiefs, Princes, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of Ashanti in the presence of

J. E. HARRIS,
95, Leadenhall Street, E.C.,
Solicitor.

BREW OF DUNQUAH,
5, Park Crescent, W.

No. 83.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received November 1, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

The answer to the ultimatum has not yet been received. The cause is not known. Possibly habitual procrastination, though Vroom urged punctuality.

No. 84.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received November 4, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 96.]

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
SIR, October 14, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report that, having in April last received from Sir W. B. Griffith the letters from the King of Mampong and the King of Amantin of which copies are enclosed, I despatched at once a messenger with an escort of four Hausas to bring down King Senkere (of Mampong) to Accra. In taking this step to secure the safety of this Chief, I was influenced in some measure by a letter from a missionary at Abetifi (Rev. F. Haasis), dated the 2nd April, a copy of which I enclose.

2. The messenger and Hausa escort left Accra on the 18th April and reached Amantin on the 2nd May. Since then, the illness of King Senkere and other causes have produced delay on his part in acting on an invitation which I sent to him to take refuge here and to place himself under British protection. I am glad, however, to be able to announce that he has at last arrived at Christiansborg, where I propose, for the present, to provide accommodation for him, granting him a small allowance for his maintenance.

3. The history of Senkere for the last seven or eight years is to be found in Mr. Ferguson's memorandum on Ashanti and the Brong tribes, forwarded with Mr. Hodgson's Despatch of December 7, 1893.*

I have, &c.
WILLIAM MAXWELL.

Enclosure 1 in No. 84.

The KING OF MANPON to the GOVERNOR.

SIR,

I BEG the honour for the entrution upon your Excellency by sending you this letter upon the subject. Through your Excellency, Mr. Scott, who came Attabobu last year for having seen me in so sad a condition expressed his great regret of the situation in which I am because I must be considered as the King of Ashantee Manpon. His expression of sympathy on my favour as I am now under the British Government was accompanied by the promise of being able to send back to my country to be on my throne, so that he strained every effort to have sent me and my few Chiefs as far as to Ammantin whereat Mr. Scott received a letter of your Excellency warranting him a statement to return. Hence I was obliged to remain here in this middle way with a word of encouragement of your Excellency.

I beg to inform your Excellency that the King of Coomasie has sent deputies here twice as to bring me to Coomasie in the sense of degraded form, having heard that your Excellency has taken the pleasure of receiving me as your humble subject under the British Government and that your Excellency was in such a position as to send me to my country to be on my throne and failed in consequence.

This I bring before your Excellency that it may be deemed necessary to let your most humble servant be possessed of his throne, as your Excellency promised. I beg leave to say that it would be more beneficial to the Government to get such kings like me who have been truly under the British Government to reign in Ashantee.

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* No. 48 in [C. 7917].

I can state that the present King of Manpon being my younger brother had stolen my kingly seat when I made a flight to Attabobu and professed himself as a king, he is the very person and only king that makes a claim of embarrassment to the Government and could command the whole Ashantee to follow his steps. He did so when your Excellency sent to plant British flag at Coomasie. Whereas I am now under the British Government, if your Excellency deems it necessary to send me to Ashantee by special bearers, as the throne of Manpon being very great and next to that of Coomasie I could induce the whole Ashantees to submit themself to the perfect controle of your Excellency.

Wherefor I humbly pray your Excellency to give speedy effect upon the earnest request of your most humble servant by bring in harmony with my views to send special bearers to com and bring the whole Ashantees to the perfect submission of your Government.

I have &c. his
To His Excellency the Governor. QUASIE SERKIREH, ×
King of Manpon. mark.

Enclosure 2 in No. 84.

The King of AMMANTIN to the GOVERNOR.

SIR, Ammantin, October 20, 1894.

Having obtained British flag from your Excellency, I am now as your common servant.

Mr. Scott, on his sending Quasie Serkireh, King of Manpon, back to his country, left him unexpectedly to my charge when he received a letter of your Excellency to return without any alternative.

Herewith I beg to report to your Excellency that the King of Coomasie has sent deputies here as to bring him to Coomasie with such a mistery as I could'nt know, but, as your Excellency had the honour of giving him to my safe charge, I have to report same to your Excellency before taking any steps for answer.

I have, &c. his
His Excellency the Governor. KOBINA SAFU, ×
King of Ammantin. mark.

Witness to mark:
F. A. Smith.

Enclosure 3 in No. 84.

Rev. F. HAASIS to Governor Sir W. B. GRIFFITH, Christiansborg Castle.

EXCELLENCY, Abetifii, April 2, 1895.

ALLOW me to bring to your knowledge a case happened at Amenteng, a town lying between Mampong (Asante) and Koranza.

During the last expedition, the former Chief of Mampong, called Sakyere, came to Colonel Sir Francis Scott begging him for allowance to stay in the Protectorate. Colonel Sir Francis Scott allowed him to stay at Amanteng, where Mr. Mitchell went with some Hausas, remaining there for some times. Now a few days ago the Kumase King begins to trouble him trying to catch him and to bring him back to Kumase. About 100 men were sent for him. He is now very much afraid, and in his trouble he sent a messenger to us reporting his troubles and begging a letter of introducing to your Excellency. The messenger who is bringing this letter will report to your Excellency all what happened.

I have, &c.
F. HAASIS.

His Excellency Sir William Brandford Griffith,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief
of the Gold Coast Colony,
Christiansborg Castle.

No. 85.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received 3.50 p.m., November 5, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

(EXTRACT.)

Kumasi not yet answered. My opinion is that some answer will be sent eventually, but cannot recommend deferring action.

No. 86.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received November 7, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

[*Answered by No.* 89.]

With reference to second enclosure in my Despatch of September 26,* may I send officer under escort to Nkoranza (to) conclude treaty of protection of friendly tribe ?

No. 87.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.

(EXTRACT.)

Downing Street, November 8, 1895.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of 26th September,* and to convey to you my approval of the terms of the ultimatum which you had addressed to the King of Kumasi, and of the instructions given to Captain Stewart and Mr. Vroom whom you had charged with the duty of conveying it to the King.

If, unfortunately, the King should refuse to enter into negotiations, or to accept the terms offered to him by Her Majesty's Government, and a military expedition should become necessary, it will, of course, when this has been effected, be open to Her Majesty's Government to take whatever measures they may think proper as to the future administration of the country.

No. 88.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received November 9, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Two special messengers, now on the way from Kumasi, passed by Prahsu 6th October ; uncertain whether they are charged with reply to me or heralds special envoy.

No. 89.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.
(Sent 12.15 p.m., November 9, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

In reply to your telegram of November 7,† you have authority to send officer to Nkoranza as proposed.

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* No. 77.

† No. 86.

No. 90.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

[*Answered by No.* 100.]

(EXTRACT.)

Downing Street, November 9, 1895.

Mr. Chamberlain desires me to request you to inform the Marquis of Lansdowne that Her Majesty's Government have decided that an expedition should be sent to Kumasi, in view of the failure of the King to accept or reply to the ultimatum which the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, acting under instructions, has addressed to him.

Mr. Chamberlain will accordingly be obliged if the Marquis of Lansdowne will issue instructions for the necessary preparations to be proceeded with at once.

Lord Lansdowne will see from the enclosed copy of a telegram* from the Governor that messengers are on their way down from Kumasi. He has been directed to communicate at once the purport of any communication they may bring, but Mr. Chamberlain is of opinion that the preparations for an expedition should not, on this account, be delayed.

In reply to your question as to the exact objects to be attained by the expedition, I am to observe that, if the King had accepted the terms offered to him in the ultimatum, Her Majesty's Government would have been satisfied with the establishment of a Resident at Kumasi, leaving the Government of the country in the hands of the present King. But as it has become necessary to take the extreme step of sending up an armed force to compel compliance with the reasonable demands of Her Majesty's Government, it will in all probability be no longer possible or desirable to allow the King Prempeh to retain the position which he now occupies. The Governor will, however, be called upon to submit his proposals as to the future administration of the country. In the meantime, it will be necessary that Kumasi should be occupied, and a detachment of the Houssa Constabulary will be left there at the termination of the operations. The amount of this force will depend upon the result of the operations, and will be decided by the officer commanding the expedition. It is not anticipated that it will be necessary to detain any of Her Majesty's regular troops at Kumasi.

As regards the establishment of telegraphic communication between Cape Coast, Prahsu, and Kumasi, the Governor reports that the erection of the line to Prahsu has been commenced, but that it can not be completed for three months. Both he and Sir F. Scott are of opinion that it is desirable that the expedition should take out a field telegraph to be laid as far as Prahsu, but the latter officer does not think that it would be practicable or expedient to carry it beyond that point. Lord Lansdowne will no doubt give instructions accordingly.

After conferring with Sir F. Scott, Mr. Chamberlain proposes to instruct the Governor by telegraph to cause the bush to be cleared at Prahsu, and to have shelter huts, with raised bamboo flooring, erected there for 300 Europeans, and also accommodation for 400 West Indian troops.

The Governor of Lagos will be instructed to hold in readiness, for despatch to the Gold Coast, as strong a force as can be spared of the Lagos Constabulary, not less than 100 men, with a proper complement of officers, and with their own ammunition, and that they should, if possible, take with them a Maxim gun and the necessary ammunition.

No. 91.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.

(Sent 11.30 a.m., November 11, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Referring to your telegram of 9th November,* keep me informed. We are making necessary preparations for the expedition.

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* No. 88.

No. 92.

COLONEL SIR FRANCIS SCOTT to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received November 11th, 1895.)

SIR, 17, Bryanston Street, November 11, 1895.

REFERRING to our conversation of Saturday regarding the expedition to Ashanti; the following are the arrangements I would like the Governor, Mr. Maxwell, to carry out as soon as possible. Huts to be erected at Prah-su to accommodate 300 European soldiers, with about 30 special service combatant officers. Also huts for 400 West Indian soldiers with their complement of European officers.

2. A field hospital to be erected for the reception of European patients.

3. Shelter huts at four of the most convenient places on the road between Cape Coast and Prah-su to be erected for the accommodation of officers and men when on the march.

4. Prah-su will be used as a base for all stores and hospital arrangements.

5. The Imperial troops will land at Cape Coast Castle with all their necessary stores.

6. Surf boats to be there in sufficient number to ensure quick landing.

7. The men will disembark and proceed at once on the road to the first halting place so that they may reach Prah-su without delay.

8. The main advance to Kumassi will take place from Prah-su.

9. Disposition of the Gold Coast Haŭsa force. A detachment of 50 Haŭsas, including Mr. Ferguson's detachment, with two combatant European officers and a doctor (Mr. Ferguson will act as interpreter) to occupy N'Koranza and to help the King to organise his force for the purpose of marching on to Kumassi under the orders of the European officer.

10. A company of Haŭsas, with a European officer and a doctor, to be stationed at Bompata to open up communications with Yeau-Sapon of Komengo; these two detachments to halt where they are until they receive further orders.

11. Should Mr. Maxwell think it feasible, I am of opinion that Chief Odonko might be very useful with a hundred or so of his Kroboes; King Matikolie offered their services in 1893: they would strengthen the Bompata detachment, and might act as scouts under their Chief; the King of Atabubu would help, if not in fighting men he would in carriers.

12. The remainder of the Gold Coast Haŭsas to be massed at Prah-su with two batteries of seven pounders (four guns to a battery) all the machine guns and necessary quantity of rockets and reserve ammunition of all arms.

13. A market to be formed at Prah-su for food for Haŭsas and carriers; it might be advisable that live cattle and sheep should be taken up there.

14. I should like every possible available Haŭsa soldier employed in this campaign. I have been informed that the Royal Navy will render help along the coast.

15. The Haŭsas from Lagos will receive their orders as to their destination when they arrive.

16. It will not be necessary for Haŭsas to proceed to Prah-su for some time yet, say the day the expedition sails from England; this could be cabled out.

17. The Imperial authorities have arranged for the necessary supply of doctors (18 in number, I have been informed) and the steamer taking the men from England is to be fitted up partly as a hospital ship. It will be necessary for the medical officer at Cape Coast to make arrangements for the possible reception of an extra number of patients.

18. There is a camp of civilian Haŭsas not far from Atabubu, called Songo, where good recruits might be got for the force or utilised in other ways. I got a few when there. I fancy, if they understood that we were going this time to Kumassi, more recruits would come in.

19. In conclusion, I would say this gives a splendid opportunity to the Gold Coast volunteers to mobilize, so as to help to garrison Accra and Cape Coast.

I have, &c.

F. C. SCOTT, Colonel,
Inspector-General,
Gold Coast Constabulary.

N.B.—An arrangement will have to be made in time for the hire of carriers; a large number will be required, about 6,000. I cannot give the exact number here, but this can be ascertained in the Quartermaster's office at Accra. The 300 Europeans will require a larger proportion of carriers than the Haŭsas or West Indians.

11th November 1895. F. C. S.

No. 93.

COLONIAL OFFICE to ADMIRALTY.

[*Answered by No.* 108.]

SIR, Downing Street, November 11, 1895.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government have decided that an expedition should be sent to Kumasi to enforce compliance with the demands of Her Majesty's Government, no reply having been returned to the ultimatum addressed to the King, and the War Department are now engaged in making the necessary preparations.

The Governor of the Gold Coast Colony has requested that, in the event of an expedition being undertaken, some of Her Majesty's ships on the station should make the Colony their headquarters during the operations, to land a contingent of marines in case of any disturbance on the Coast during the absence of the troops.

The bulk of the constabulary force of the Colony will be engaged in the expedition and the Coast towns will therefore be to a great extent denuded of the defensive forces usually stationed there.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Chamberlain would be greatly obliged if the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty would issue the necessary instructions to the Officer Commanding on the station to assemble as large a naval force as may be possible at the Gold Coast, for use in case of emergency.

The expedition will probably leave the coast for Kumasi towards the end of December, and it is desirable that the ships should be at the Gold Coast about that time.

I am, &c.

JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 94.

COLONIAL OFFICE to J. E. HARRIS, ESQ.

SIR, Downing Street, November 11, 1895.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ult.* addressed to the Earl of Selborne, on the subject of the ultimatum addressed to the King of Kumasi, and the alleged undertaking by him, through his representatives, to grant a charter to certain persons in this country, with, it would appear, the object of conferring upon a company "all rights now possessed by the King of Ashanti in the dominions over which he rules."

With regard to your statement that the King does not appreciate the effect of the ultimatum, or the result that may follow if the demands of Her Majesty's Government are not conceded, I am to observe that this statement appears to be conjectural, as it is not possible that any accurate information on the subject should have been received in this country at the date of your letter, there being no telegraphic communication with Kumasi.

On the other hand, Mr. Chamberlain is aware that Mr. Vroom, who was sent up to translate the ultimatum to the King, is perfectly competent to do so, and entirely trustworthy, and there is no reason to believe that the King and his Chiefs would not fully understand and comprehend its meaning.

If the messengers now in London consider themselves the only persons qualified to advise the King they should have returned to the Coast when they were invited to do so, and were informed that negotiations were about to take place. They preferred to remain in England, and Her Majesty's Government could not be expected to await their pleasure before communicating to the King the terms with which they felt it necessary to call upon him to comply.

With respect to the undertaking to grant a charter, I am to state that a copy of the document has been communicated to Mr. Chamberlain. Her Majesty's Government must, however, decline in any way to recognize the alleged concession or the arrangements which it purports to make for the development and administration of the kingdom of Ashanti, arrangements which the King of Kumasi has no right or authority to make.

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* No. 81

This document is executed by a person calling himself "Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of Ashanti," a title of which Her Majesty's Government can take no cognizance.

I have, &c.
R. H. MEADE.

No. 95.

COLONIAL OFFICE to MESSRS. GRUNDY, KERSHAW, SAXON, SAMSON & Co.

GENTLEMEN, Downing Street, November 11, 1895.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter* enclosing a copy of a concession purporting to have been granted to Mr. George Reckless by certain persons styling themselves Princes and Chiefs of Ashanti, and John Osso Ansah, who calls himself "Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of Ashanti."

In reply, I am to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government must decline in any way to recognise the alleged concession or the arrangements which it purports to make.

I have, &c.
R. H. MEADE.

No. 96.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.

SIR, Downing Street, November 12, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 14th of October,† and to convey to you my approval of the measures you took to induce King Senkere of Mampong to take refuge in the Colony and place himself under British protection, and of your proposals with regard to his accommodation and maintenance.

I have, &c.
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 97.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received 5.40 p.m., November 12, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Ashanti special messengers, Kwaku Abura, sword-bearer, and Kofi Akwa, court-crier, arrived to-day. Not being of high rank, I gave directions for Acting-Colonial Secretary to arrange to receive them.

King's message to me is as follows:—Boatin, Ansah, and others have been sent to Queen of England with my proposals.

Nothing more. No reply received in writing.

No. 98.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.

SIR, Downing Street, November 12, 1895.

IN connection with the expedition to Kumasi, I have the honour to transmit to you, for your information and guidance, a copy of a letter‡ from Colonel Sir F. C. Scott, K.C.M.G.

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* No. 82. † No. 84. ‡ No. 92.

I also enclose copies of letters* to the War Office and Admiralty, which will inform you of the action which is being taken with regard to the expedition.

Sir F. Scott has been selected to take the command, and it is proposed that he should return to the Coast by the mail of the 23rd inst., taking with him certain special service officers.

About 30 officers (including those above-mentioned) and 300 men (including medical staff) will be sent from England, and these will probably leave in a hired transport early in December, and will pick up at Sierra Leone 400 men and officers of the West India Regiment.

The exact date of their departure will be notified to you, in due course, by telegraph.

A telegram has been sent to the Officer Administering the Government of Lagos, directing him to hold in readiness a detachment of the Houssa Constabulary to proceed to the Gold Coast on receiving an application from you.

I have, &c.
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 99.

WAR OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received November 14, 1895.)

SIR, War Office, Pall Mall, S.W., November 13, 1895.

IT having been decided that Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel and Honorary Colonel Sir F. C. Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., late Major, half-pay, Inspector-General of the Gold Coast Constabulary, shall assume command of the expedition about to be dispatched to Ashanti, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that steps are about to be taken to submit to the Queen that the local rank of Colonel be conferred on this officer whilst so employed.

This will be duly notified in the London Gazette when Her Majesty has approved.

I have, &c.
ARTHUR L. HALIBURTON.

No. 100.

WAR OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received November 14, 1895.)

SIR, War Office, Pall Mall, S.W., November 13, 1895.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant,† on the subject of the proposed expedition to Kumasi, and to acquaint you, for Mr. Chamberlain's information, that the necessary measures in connection therewith are being taken.

I have, &c.
ARTHUR L. HALIBURTON.

No. 101.

COLONIAL OFFICE to THOMAS SUTHERST, ESQ.

[*Answered by No.* 102.]

SIR, Downing Street, November 14, 1895.

I LOST no time in communicating to Mr. Chamberlain the information which you were good enough to state in conversation with myself to-day. You said, unless I misunderstood you, that the messengers from Coomassie in an interview with yourself and Lord Suffield

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* Nos. 90 and 93. † No. 90.

at your house had produced the powers given to them by their King and that you were satisfied as to the authenticity of these documents, the date of which you did not remember; further, that these documents authorised the messengers to consent, in the name of King Prempeh, to the demands of Her Majesty's Government, and that they are now ready to do so, and to concede, on behalf of the King, the power to Her Majesty's Government to place a Resident at Coomassie. And you urged that, as these men are at best but intelligent savages, and therefore cannot be acquainted with the niceties of diplomatic procedure, they should be allowed to express regret at having come over without permission, and that Her Majesty's Government should not insist upon a strict compliance with their directions that communications can only be received through the Governor of the Gold Coast, and should enter, if only unofficially, into relations with these men.

2. Mr. Chamberlain directs me to say that he fully appreciates the humane motives by which you explained you are actuated, and your wish, if possible, to avert the proposed military expedition, and its inevitable consequences. Mr. Chamberlain fully shares this wish, and would rejoice if the expedition can be avoided, even at the last moment, by the tardy submission of the King.

3. I am, however, to observe that Mr. Chamberlain has no means of testing the assurances made through you that the messengers are empowered to make a submission on behalf of the King; and it is almost inconceivable that this is the case, since the messengers have never before asserted that they had any such authority from the King, and as there is no telegraph to Coomassie, they cannot have received recent instructions. I may add that, if the statement were true, it is incredible that the King should have risked hostilities by sending, as his only reply to the ultimatum, a message, received so recently as the 12th instant, that his messengers had been sent to the Queen with his proposals.

4. Mr. Chamberlain, therefore, asks that these messengers should at once telegraph to the coast a message to be forwarded to the King, that the only course which he can take to avoid the expedition is to accede to the demands of Her Majesty's Government, with which he is already acquainted, and which, according to your information, he is now prepared to accept; and they should, as proof of their good faith, give directions to the telegraph company to furnish this Department with a copy of any telegram they may send.

5. They should also themselves return to their country by the first steamer, in order to advise the King to carry out the promises which they will make in writing on his behalf, and which should be transmitted to Mr. Chamberlain as soon as may be practicable, accompanied by the powers under which they act. The Governor will be directed by telegraph to have one or more British officers ready at Cape Coast to meet them on arrival and to accompany them to Coomassie and bring the matter to a conclusion.

6. In the meantime, the preparations for the military operations must proceed, though Mr. Chamberlain trusts that there may be no occasion for employing the troops actively. I am to add, however, that one condition of a settlement with the King will be that he must pay the cost which will be incurred in connexion with the expedition and which has been rendered necessary by reason of the King's reluctance to meet the reasonable requests of Her Majesty by direct communication with her authorised agent, the Governor of the Colony, and by the inexplicable reticence of his messengers, who have kept back for many months any, even the slightest, intimation that their King was ready to make to Her Majesty the submission which you called upon me to-day to announce.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 102.

THOS. SUTHERST, Esq. to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received November 15, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 103.]

34, Grosvenor Square, W.,
November 15, 1895.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th.* Permit me to correct one or two inaccuracies in the recital of our interview. You designate the

* No. 101.

King's representatives as "messengers" whereas the document appointing them gives them the widest possible powers, and styles them ambassadors and ministers. They are, therefore, more than mere "messengers." The expression in your letter "these men are at best but intelligent savages" does not correctly represent my opinion of these representatives. I believe them to be highly intelligent men, of considerable capacity, but, at the same time, semi-civilized from our point of view. Pursuing the narration of the interview, you also state that I said "and therefore cannot be acquainted with the "niceties of diplomatic procedure, they should be allowed to express their regret at having "come over without permission." My desire was to convey their regret for not acquainting Her Majesty's representatives on the Gold Coast of their intentions, not for having come "without permission," because they believed that they had a right to leave their country as the representatives of their King and come direct to the Imperial Government in England. But the men are now here with full powers, and are prepared to act in perfect harmony with the wishes of the British Government. No simple formality should have prevented them for such a protracted period from seeing someone in authority. This is, however, now remedied by the communication you have been good enough to address to me, and which was read to the Ashantis this morning, who desire me to convey their gratitude to you and to express their unfeigned regret for having unintentionally and in ignorance committed any breach of the usages and customs laid down by Her Majesty the Queen for the administration of the affairs of the British Empire.

Proceeding to paragraph 2 of your letters, the wish you express of avoiding the expedition by the "tardy" submission of the King is appreciated and equally shared by the Ashantis themselves. There is no tardiness on their part. They are ready and waiting to execute a treaty in pursuance of their powers. I venture to point out the tardiness has arisen through their not being received on their arrival.

Passing to paragraph 3, I send you herewith copies of the documents I hold constituting these men the representatives of the King and giving them the widest powers. These have never been revoked, and, referring to your allusion that "they cannot have received recent instructions," the King, having invested his representatives with full powers, has left the settlement of differences with the Imperial Government in their hands, and this is proved by your further statement that the King's only reply to the ultimatum was a message received "on the 12th instant that his messengers had been sent to the Queen with his proposals."

As to paragraphs 4 and 5, the representatives are quite prepared (1) to execute to-morrow an approved treaty in the King's name, providing you will submit a draft for their perusal to-night. (2) They will thereupon send a cablegram informing the King, an authenticated copy of which you shall have. (3) They will leave by the next steamer and do any further acts that may be necessary to effectually carry out the treaty. (4) They, however, object to any military force accompanying them to Coomassie, but they are quite willing that you should send with them from England two civilians to accompany them, and, subject to your approval, I propose to send with them two gentlemen whose names shall be submitted to you.

As to the last paragraph, numbered 6, the Ashantis hold that there was no necessity whatever to incur any expense in connexion with a matter which they for months past have been ready to settle amicably and in complete harmony with the communication made to the King by Acting Governor Hodgson, dated Accra, 23rd February 1894.

These men have several times attempted to see someone in authority, but for some unexplained reason they have been prevented. The offence of having failed to communicate with or through the Governor is surely atoned for by the evident anxiety of the King to propitiate the Imperial Government by sending some of his best representative men direct to England relying upon our well-known hospitality and traditional love of justice.

There are also other reasons, to which I need not now allude, which go a long way to show that the King had grounds for desiring to send his envoys direct to the Queen's Government.

Permit me to add, with great deference, that, in my humble judgment, the Government can at once obtain all that can justly be demanded, without either firing a shot, sacrificing a life, or spending a pound.

May I further state that the envoys are at your command at any moment you choose to summon them or myself.

I am, &c.
THOMAS SUTHERST.

No. 103.

COLONIAL OFFICE to THOMAS SUTHERST, Esq.,

[*Answered by No.* 107.]

SIR, Downing Street, November 15, 1895.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this date.*

2. With reference to the copy in English, which you submitted to him, of the document under which Mr. John Ossoo Ansah claims to act as representative of the King of Kumasi, and in which he is described as the grandson of that King, you are possibly not aware that King Prempeh is now not more than 25 years of age, and that his so-called grandson, who asks to be received by Her Majesty the Queen as an ambassador and minister plenipotentiary, was originally in the public service of the Gold Coast Colony, and was dismissed from that service; and subsequently, as a member of the Gold Coast volunteers, received the war medal issued by Her Majesty for the operations against Ashanti in 1873. The antecedents of his brother, who accompanies him, though he is not named in the document you produced, are also well known in this Department, and I am to add that he also was at one time a clerk in the service of the Colony, with which, in like manner, his connexion terminated abruptly.

3. Mr. Chamberlain must decline to recognise them or either of them as ambassadors, or to negotiate a treaty with them. If any arrangement with the King is to be made, it must be effected at the Gold Coast by the Governor of the Colony, who is the Queen's representative, as they, Messrs. Ansah, were informed, by direction of the late Secretary of State for the Colonies, long before they left Africa. They were also informed more than once that they would not be received, and one letter, dated 21st December 1894, from Governor Sir W. B. Griffith was in the following terms: "I hereby give you notice that "I have to-day received instructions from the Government of Her Majesty the Queen "of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, to forbid you going on to England and "I forbid you accordingly."

4. Mr. Chamberlain has nothing to add to the letter which was addressed to you yesterday,† and if there is any real desire on the part of the persons on whose behalf you have written to avert the consequences of the expedition which is now in preparation, and which will not be delayed, they will do well to comply with the conditions laid down in that letter.

5. I am to transmit for your information a copy of the ultimatum,‡ dated 23rd of September last, to which reference is made in that letter.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 104.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

SIR, Downing Street, November 15, 1895.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of 9th instant,§ I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, a copy of a telegram|| from the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, reporting the arrival of the two messengers from Kumasi and the nature of their communication.

As the message they have brought practically amounts to a rejection of the ultimatum, Mr. Chamberlain is of opinion that the proposed expedition must go.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

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* No. 102. † No. 101. ‡ Enclosure 1 in No. 77. § No. 90. || No. 97.

No. 105.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.
(Sent 1.25 p.m. November 15, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

[*Answered by No.* 109.]

French newspaper reports Samory at Kumasi. Can you ascertain whether or not? In any case you should send message to him, informing him of intended immediate action of Her Majesty's Government with regard to Kumasi, stating that they trust that he will not interfere in any manner in Ashanti, which is in British sphere.

No. 106.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received November 16, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

As at present advised, do not believe French newspaper report. Enquiries being made.

No. 107.

THOMAS SUTHERST, ESQ., to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received November 16, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 111.]

SIR, 34, Grosvenor Square, W., November 16, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th,* and, with regard to the character and status of the representatives, of the King of Ashanti, I have ascertained the following facts, and am assured by those conversant with the customs of the Gold Coast Colony that these men do occupy a position in Ashanti that renders them reliable representatives of the King. The following facts, if submitted to officials acquainted with the customs of these people, will, I venture to think, confirm my statement:—

Chief Kwamin Boatin, known in Ashanti as a noble Chief, and one of the principal advisers to the King, and has many times been received by Governor Sir Brandford Griffiths, and by Acting-Governor F. M. Hodgson, as the representative of the King of Ashanti.

Kwaku Fukoo, King's spokesman, whose father, Banaki Tintin, who represented the King at a meeting with Sir Samuel Rowe, in 1881, at Prahsu, during what was known as the "Ashanti scare" in that year, and who accompanied Sir Samuel Rowe to Elmina and from thence to Accra.

Kwaku Fukoo has succeeded to his post at the Ashanti court and is undoubtedly considered an important personage.

Kwaku Inrumah occupies a post equivalent to Chamberlain to the King, and has been received by Acting-Governor F. M. Hodgson as representing the King of Ashanti.

Chief Cobinah Bonda, court-crier to the King of Ashanti, which, I am informed, is recognised as a post of some importance.

None of the foregoing speak or write English and it was therefore imperative that they should secure the services of some person or persons to act as interpreters. They accordingly brought with them John Ossoo Ansah, of Cape Coast, who is well known at Kumasie, and Albert A. Ossoo Ansah, both of whom can read and write, and, as the King's signature would possibly be required, the written credential was given to John Ossoo Ansah, who is what is known by native law as grandson to the "stool" of Ashanti, and not, as you state, grandson to the present King. His grandfather was King.

* No. 103.

As a few days must elapse before these representatives leave England, I still hope that you, or someone whom you may depute, may be able to meet one, if not all, Chiefs, in order that a proper judgment may be formed of their intelligence and capacity.

I am glad to be able to send you their complete acceptance of the terms of the British Government, and all that now remains is to retain this brave race as allies for the extension of the moral influence and trade of the British Empire in Africa.

The representatives are willing that one or two British officers should accompany them to Kumasi, but would prefer civilians.

And as to the old debt of 50,000 ounces of gold, they wish the payment of that to be spread over a convenient period.

I am, &c.
T. SUTHERST.

Enclosure in No. 107.

SIR, 34, Grosvenor Square, W., November 16, 1895.

ACTING on behalf of Kwaku Dua III., King of Ashantee, and as his envoys with full powers contained in the documents of which you have seen a copy, we have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Queen's ultimatum to our King, and we now, on his behalf and on behalf of the Chiefs and people of Ashanti, tender submission thereto. We agree to accept a British Resident at Kumasi, and to conform to all the terms of the Queen's ultimatum, believing that all the promises made on behalf of the Queen, by Her representatives, will be faithfully carried out. The King and Chiefs desire the alliance and friendship of the Queen, and they desire, through the British Government, to open up their territory to trade and commerce. The King and people have long abandoned the practices of human sacrifices. They are anxious to remove all hindrances to trade and the development of the resources of their country, and undertake to comply with Article 7 of the treaty of Fommanah by the construction and maintenance of a road from Kumasi to the Prah river. They have not attacked other tribes unless first attacked by them, and then only in self-defence.

But in all these things the King desires to act in friendship with the British Government, to whom they will look for protection against their enemies and the prevention of injustice.

We leave for our country by the earliest possible steamer, and shall inform our King of what we have done at once, by cablegram. On our arrival, we shall do all in our power to assist the new Resident, whom we shall be glad to accompany to Kumasi.

We have, &c.

JOHN OSSOO ANSAH, Prince of Ashanti, their
CHIEF KWAMIN BOATIN. ×
CHIEF KWAKU FOKOO (Linguist). ×
CAPTAIN KWAKU INKRUMAH. ×
CAPTAIN COBINAH BONDAH. ×
ALBERT OSSOO ANSAH, Prince of Ashanti. marks.

The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Signed and marks affixed in the presence of
GEORGE J. BRIDGES.

(Seal.)

To the MOST GRACIOUS AND ILLUSTRIOUS SOVEREIGN, VICTORIA, QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

Kwaku Dua III., King of Ashanti, wisheth health and prosperity.

We pray Your Most Gracious Majesty to know that we have appointed our trusty and well-beloved grandson, Prince John Ossoo Ansah, son of the late Prince Ansah, of Ashanti, on our behalf to lay before your Majesty divers matters affecting the good estate of our kingdom and the well-being of our subjects with full power for the said Prince Ansah as our ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to negotiate and conclude all

such treaties relating to the furtherance of trade and all matters therewith connected as your Majesty shall be pleased to entertain.

We therefore pray that your Majesty will be pleased to receive the said Prince Ansah on our behalf and to accord to him your Majesty's most royal favour.

Given at our Court at Kumasi this 8th day of September 1894.

my
KWAKU DUA III., ×
King of Ashanti. mark.

No. 108.

ADMIRALTY to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received November 18, 1895.)

SIR, Admiralty, November 16, 1895.

WITH reference to your letter of November 11,* respecting the proposed expedition to Kumasi, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will state to Mr. Secretary Chamberlain that a telegram was sent to the Commander-in-Chief at the Cape of Good Hope, saying that as large a number of ships as could be spared should make the Gold Coast their head-quarters during the operations, to be available to land marines in case of any disturbance during absence of troops.

A reply has been received from Rear-Admiral Rawson to the effect that he will concentrate on the Gold Coast with the flag ship and five or six other vessels.

2. The Rear-Admiral asks for information as to the actual date when the ships should assemble at Cape Coast Castle.

I am, &c.
EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 109.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received 9.37 a.m., November 18, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Referring to your telegram of 15th November,† French newspaper reports: from information received from Administrator of French possessions, conjecture that source of information is Accra newspaper articles, which are unworthy of belief. Mahommedan traders declare that nothing known.

Special messenger not yet returned. Expect to receive answer shortly. Another messenger will be sent in accordance with instructions.

No. 110.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received November 18, 1895.)

Government House, Accra,

SIR, October 25, 1895.

PENDING the return of Captain Stewart and Mr. Vroom to headquarters, and the receipt of their official report, I have the honour to forward the enclosed extract from a semi-official letter addressed to me by Captain Stewart, and dated the 11th instant.

I have, &c.
WILLIAM MAXWELL.

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* No. 93.

† No. 105.

Enclosure 1 in No. 110.

EXTRACT from a LETTER from Capt. STEWART to the GOVERNOR

Echeabou, October 11, 1895.

"I thought you would be anxious to hear how our mission has been getting on. The official report I will send in on my return.

"The King of Bekwai would not sign a treaty, he having only 20 days ago drunk a fresh fetish with the King of Kumasi, on account of some trouble between the two places owing to Mr. Cade's visit to Bekwai. He is still very much frightened of Kumasi, but he said that if I raised the flag, and ordered him to accept it and sign a treaty, he would then inform the King of Kumasi that we had done this and, no matter what he said, they would then sign the treaty. But, of course, it was impossible to do this, as it would have been pure annexation by force, and at the last the Bekwais might have gone against us. The King of Bekwai assured us that on no account would any of his people fight against us. It all amounts to this, that he wants to be able to give some good excuse for breaking the King of Kumasi's oath, so would like to throw all the responsibility on us.

"Samory's message to Kumasi was, that he had attacked and beaten the Gamans, as they had refused to let him open up a trade route through their country; the King of Kumasi sent back his thanks to Samory for having done this. Of course, this was only the public message given; there was sure to have been a private one, but it is impossible to find out what it was.

"We had an excellent reception given us at Kumasi, and the tone of the Chiefs was very different from the last time I was up there: this time they talked about their good friend the Governor and the friendly letter! he had sent them, in fact they seemed rather nervous, but for what reason we could not find out. They tried hard to make us stay till next week, but this we refused and, as they would not give us leave to depart on the day we had informed them that we should leave and refused to take us to the King to say good-bye, we sent our compliments to the King by his sword-bearers and left. A short way off we were caught up by linguists, sword-bearers, &c., and about a dozen Chiefs under Usufu Boatchin, the second war Chief, and they again begged us to stay till next week, and read the letter again, but we refused, as the only reason they wanted to keep us was to delay us, I think, in hopes of their recently arrived messengers from England getting to Kumasi before we left. Presents from the King followed us out on the road and were carried on to our first halting place, 32*l.* 8*s.* in gold dust, and sheep and 300 loads of vegetables and fruit.

"Considering the circumstances of the case, in our difficulty in getting away from Kumasi, the King's evident desire to please, we thought it most impolitic to refuse the gold dust, as they would have taken it as an insult and there would have been a bad feeling created at once and endless palaver; I can explain it better later on, but I hope when you know the circumstances in full you will approve of the course we took. We are having rain every day and the roads are in a fearful condition, to-day we all had to swim the Oda river, which was in flood; am glad to say the Adansis, Bekwais and Kumasis cleared nearly the whole of the road from the Prah to Kumasi for us, a thing they have never done before I believe. We hope to reach Prahsu on the 16th or 17th, and Cape Coast on the 20th or 21st October.

"There is not the slightest chance of the King of Kumasi coming to meet you, as when we made the offer they all laughed at the idea of the King of Heaven and Earth going to meet anyone." * * * * *

No. 111.

COLONIAL OFFICE to THOMAS SUTHERST, ESQ.

[*Answered by No.* 112.]

SIR, Downing Street, November 18, 1895.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 16th instant,* enclosing a letter signed by John Ossoo Ansah, the Chiefs, Kwamin Boatin and Kwaku Fokoo, the Captains Kwaku Ingrumah and Cobinah Bonda, and Albert Ossoo Ansah, in which, on behalf of the King and of the Chiefs and people of Ashanti, they agree to accept a British Resident at Kumasi and to conform to all the

* No. 107.

terms of the Queen's ultimatum. You also transmit the English copy on parchment of the full powers referred to in their letter. This copy, which is returned herewith, bears the impression of a die, which you stated was the King's seal, and is signed by a cross not countersigned or witnessed. A copy has been taken for record in this Department.

2. I am, however, to observe that the only name mentioned in that document is that of Mr. John Ossoo Ansah, and there is, therefore, nothing to show that the Chief Boatin and the other natives on whose authority you now rely are in any way empowered to speak on behalf of the King of Kumasi or his Chiefs. Mr. Chamberlain, however, consents to receive their letter for what it may be worth, but must not be taken to admit all the statements of fact which it contains. He will transmit it by the first steamer to the Governor of the Colony, by whom, as you were informed in the letter of the 15th instant,* any arrangement with the King must be made.

3. You stated when leaving your letter with the officials of this Department that Chief Boatin and the others would, in compliance with the advice contained in the letter of the 14th instant, telegraph at once a message to the coast, to be forwarded to the King, in these terms:—"We have accepted, on behalf of the King and Chiefs, the terms of the "ultimatum sent by the British Government to Coomassie and return by next steamer."

I am to acquaint you that, on learning that the messengers have left by the next boat, which sails on the 23rd instant, Mr. Chamberlain will instruct the Governor to have, as stated in the letter of the 14th instant,† one or two British officers ready at Cape Coast to meet them on arrival and to accompany them to Kumasi with such force as the Governor may think necessary, and on arrival there to instal the Resident, who will be attended by a sufficient escort to form his guard at that town.

4. In order to save time in bringing the matter to a conclusion, and to reduce the expenditure which will have to be paid by the King, as intimated in the letter of the 14th instant,† the Governor will be authorised, if he should think fit, to proceed to the River Prah, there to meet the King to receive his final submission and to enter into a formal agreement as to the conditions on which the affairs of his country will thereafter be conducted.

5. The military expedition will, in the meanwhile, proceed, according to the arrangements already made, and will not be stopped except upon the complete submission of the King.

I am, &c.

JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 112.

THOMAS SUTHERST, Esq., to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received November 19, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 113.]

SIR, 34, Grosvenor Square, November 19, 1895

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th,‡ and beg to inform you that a cablegram in the following terms was dispatched as arranged:—

"We have accepted, on behalf of the King and Chiefs, the terms of the ultimatum sent by the British Governor to Coomassie, and return by next steamer."

The Ashanti envoys, however, desire me to protest against the preparations and lavish expenditure which is being incurred by the British Government, for no other purpose, as they allege, than a demonstration of strength, which is quite unnecessary, seeing that the King, Chiefs, and people have already accepted to the fullest extent the demands of the British Government.

This protest, I am bound to say, seems to me to be perfectly natural, if it is intended, as you state, to make the Ashantis pay the cost of the expedition. It appears to them like firing on a flag of truce.

This question of costs is the only one which is likely to cause any difficulty, because they have always been ready and willing to comply with the reasonable wishes of the British Government.

The Government may, of course, send as many ships and men to the Gold Coast as it chooses, and no one but the British nation has anything to do with it; but if the King of Ashanti, through his envoys, accepts the terms of the Government in the most friendly manner, and the answer is "increased" instead of "decreased" activity in the War Department, with an intimation that all the expenditure must be paid by the Ashantis, surely their protest is reasonable.

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* No. 103. † No. 101. ‡ No. 111.

I regret that the Ashantis themselves are not able to confer with some of the heads of your Department personally, by reason of your refusal to permit them to do so, and that I, therefore, at their earnest request, am reluctantly obliged to obtrude this correspondence upon you. Permit me, however, to add that, according to the evidence before me, I incline to the opinion that the Ashanti representatives are right, and we shall be wrong, if, merely to obtain costs, we wage war upon an unoffending and brave race, who wish to be our allies.'

I am, &c.
T. SUTHERST.

No. 113.

COLONIAL OFFICE to THOMAS SUTHERST, Esq.

[*Answered by No.* 117.]

SIR, Downing Street, November 19, 1895.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 19th instant,* intimating that a cablegram as arranged had been sent, and protesting against the continued expenditure upon military preparations which you say is being incurred by Her Majesty's Government for no other purpose, as the Ashanti messengers allege, than a demonstration of strength, and which is quite unnecessary, seeing that the King, Chiefs, and people have already accepted to the fullest extent the demands of the British Government. You also say that the question of costs (*i.e.*, of payment for the cost of the expedition) is the only one which is likely to cause any difficulty, because they (the Ashantis) have always been ready and willing to comply with the reasonable wishes of the British Government.

2. In reply, I am to say that, for reasons indicated in previous letters, Mr. Chamberlain is unable to share your confidence in the intentions and authority of the Ashanti messengers. He has no faith in their ability to pledge their King, or his Chiefs, or people. Had they really possessed this authority, or had they always been ready and willing to comply with the reasonable wishes of the British Government, it is impossible to understand why, when approaching this Office through intermediaries, they did not use that authority some months ago to give the assurances demanded, and, still more, why they did not urge their King to send a satisfactory reply to the ultimatum forwarded by the Governor.

3. The fact that the messengers made no offer to accept the British terms until the expedition was ordered, and that the King has not, even to this date, shown the slightest disposition to comply with them, strengthens Mr. Chamberlain's distrust as to the real object of the communications of which you have been the channel, since he cannot conceal from himself the fact that, if it were the intention of the King and the desire of his messengers to procrastinate, and delay the expedition until the wet season was at hand, the course taken was one well calculated to effect that object.

4. Mr. Chamberlain will communicate with the Governor at once, in accordance with the letter from this Department of the 18th instant,† but he is of opinion that the Resident to be appointed at Kumasi must now be installed by a sufficient force to secure his safety, and to convince the King of the futility of resistance.

5. If the King of Kumasi confirms the submission made by the messengers on his behalf, there will be no bloodshed, and the details of an arrangement as to the expenditure which his delay has made necessary can be finally settled at Kumasi.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 114.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.
(Sent 1.45 p.m., November 21, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

14 November, Sutherst, barrister, called Colonial Office on behalf of messengers, stating that they accept ultimatum in name of King. I replied in writing Sutherst, with whom only have I corresponded, expressing doubt as to their having authority given fit

* No. 112. † No. 111.

for the purpose, desiring that they telegraph at once to King that he can only avert expedition by acceding to demands from Her Majesty's Government and that they should return at once and advise him adopt the course, in which case you would send officers with them Kumasi; it would be essential condition that King defrays expenditure for the expedition. This produced evasive answer 15th November offering to make treaty, send telegram, and go out to give effect to treaty. I replied at once absolutely refusing to negotiate treaty and saying that they would be well advised to act upon previous letter. They, 16 November, signified complete acceptance terms of Her Majesty's Government; willing that one or two British officers, civilians in preference, should accompany them Kumasi; ask that payment 50,000 ounces Fommannah treaty may be spread over convenient period. I replied pointing out credentials insufficient but, accepting letter for what it may be worth, upon hearing that they have started, would instruct you have British officers ready to accompany them Kumasi with such force as you think best to instal Resident with guard; in order to save time and expense to be paid by King, you would be authorised at your discretion to meet King at Prah and receive final submission. Meanwhile expedition would not stop until final submission. In reply, they said they had sent telegram, but made protest against unnecessary military preparations involving too great expenditure for purpose of increasing cost to King. I replied 19 November I had no faith in powers of messengers to pledge King Chiefs people, why did not they months ago give assurances required and urge King comply with conditions? Their delay till expedition ordered and indisposition of King to accept conditions creates distrust of good faith and if their intention was cause delay until rainy season course adopted was well suited for purpose. I would communicate with you, but Resident must be installed Kumasi with sufficient force; details of expenditure can be arranged Kumasi.—*Correspondence ends.*

It has been decided that expedition must go Kumasi at all events. Do not relax preparation. I am writing fully by next mail.

No. 114A.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received 9.43 p.m., November 22, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

[*Answered by No.* 120.]

Clearly understand correspondence regarding Sutherst. Very glad that it has been decided that expedition must go Kumasi. Will not relax preparations; confidently believe that in order to convincingly show to friendly tribes power of Kumasi at an end absolutely necessary to require public submission. In my opinion, King should be required to communicate to me that he accepts ultimatum. I can, if required, send credentials meet envoys Cape Coast Castle.

No. 115.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.

(EXTRACT.)

Downing Street, November 22, 1895.

I communicated to you by telegraph on the 21st instant* the substance of a correspondence between this Department and Mr. Thomas Sutherst, with respect to the Ashanti messengers now in England and their desire to make submission on behalf of the King of Kumasi, his Chiefs, and people, to the terms of the ultimatum of 23rd September.

I now transmit, for your information and guidance, copies of the correspondence,† from which you will learn exactly what has passed.

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* No. 114.

† Nos. 101, 102, 103, 107, 111, 112, and 113.

You will observe from these letters that I feel no confidence in the ability or bona fides of these messengers, and that I have only accepted their assurances for what they may be worth, and that I have distinctly informed them that the King's submission must be made to you, and that it is by and with you only that a treaty embodying the terms of Her Majesty's Government can be negotiated.

I have from the first refused to recognise the so-called ambassadors. It now appears that none of them, with the exception of John Ansah, produced any credentials at all, and the Chiefs who do not speak English, appear to regard the Ansahs only as their interpreters. But, in spite of all this uncertainty as to their position, I could not, when many valuable lives are at stake, stand upon formalities and refuse to listen to their intermediary or to examine into the reality of the submission which they offered on behalf of their King.

The result is not conclusive, and you will see that I have clearly stated that the expedition will proceed; that, under any circumstances, such a force as may be considered desirable and sufficient will go to Kumasi, and that the King will be required to pay the costs which have been, or may be, incurred in connexion with the expedition.

The composition of the force will be discussed by you, in consultation with Sir F. Scott, who has been instructed to report the result for the approval of the Secretary of State for War. In view of the uncertainty as to whether the King will adopt the promises of submission made in his name, the escort by which the Resident will be accompanied should, under any circumstances, be amply strong enough to defend itself against attack.

As there is no likelihood of the King, in any event, coming to the Prah to meet you, I do not desire that you should yourself proceed to Kumasi to negotiate with him. This duty may be entrusted to the commander of the expedition, but you should detach some capable officer of the public service to assist him in the preparation of the necessary agreement or treaty. At the same time, if you should be of opinion that it would be better for you to go there yourself, you are at liberty to do so, informing me by telegraph.

In drawing up a treaty, the terms of the letter of February 23rd, 1894, and of the ultimatum of the 23rd of September last will, of course, be adhered to, except that the subsidies mentioned in the draft compact prepared by Mr Hodgson should not now be offered. The clearest language should be used, so that there may be no doubt or mistake hereafter as to the precise nature of the engagements entered into by the King.

It will be necessary to include a provision with regard to the payment by the King of the expenses of the expedition, an estimate of which I shall send you as soon as possible. If it appears to you that the finances of Ashanti make it impossible to pay the whole amount, you may arrange to compound the claim for a sum proportioned to the resources of the King.

You will also consider whether it will be desirable that the sum in question should be paid at once, or be divided into fixed instalments to be paid at intervals, the period of which should, of course, be definitely fixed.

In consideration of the payment of the cost of the expedition, Her Majesty's Government will not insist upon the discharge of the debt of 50,000 ounces of gold stipulated for in the treaty of Fommanah.

As soon as I am informed that the messengers have left England to return to the coast I shall acquaint you by telegraph, with a view to their being met at Cape Coast, for you must consider whether they should go up with Sir F. Scott and the expedition, or whether you would detach special officers to accompany them to Kumasi, and, in that case, the escort these officers should have, will engage your attention and that of Sir F. Scott.

Her Majesty's Government will be glad, as you will fully realize, if the King's submission should render all fighting unnecessary, but it is absolutely essential to secure such a complete and efficient British control at Kumasi as will prevent a recurrence of the difficulties and disturbances which have caused so much trouble in recent years, will put a stop to the practice of human sacrifices and other atrocities, will ensure freedom of trade and communication throughout the country, will afford an opportunity for the introduction of civilizing influences and the improvement of the people and their institutions, and will relieve the Gold Coast Government from the anxiety and useless expenditure which the state of unrest in Ashanti, and the intrigues and hostile proceedings of the King, have so frequently forced upon the Colony.

If the necessary arrangements for these objects cannot be obtained by the peaceable submission of the King, recourse must be had to force, and the future conditions of the Kingdom of Kumasi will then be dictated by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 116.

Governor MAXWELL to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received November 22, 1895.)

Sir, Government House, Accra, October 28, 1895.

In continuation of my Despatch of the 25th instant,* I have the honour to transmit a copy of the report of Captain Stewart and Mr. Vroom (who arrived here on the 25th instant) on their recent mission to Kumasi, and also a copy of the treaty concluded with the King of Adansi.

2. From the estimate of the male adult population of Kumasi which is given in this report, it must not be assumed that the whole number could be armed and put into the field. The probability is that much coercion and the exercise of fetish influences would be necessary in the case of a large number of them.

3. I have not yet received any intimation that messengers from Kumasi are on their way down, but Mr. Vroom is of opinion that an answer will be sent.

4. The return of two of the native messengers from England is opportune. It has been reported to me on the authority of one Abadoo, a native trader, who returned from England to Cape Coast last week, that the real Ashanti members of the mission to London have now found out the real character of the Ansahs, who, with J. H. Brew, have been squandering the money supplied to them on their own amusements; that Tufoo and Dabban have returned here to procure funds, and that they will shortly return to England to bring away their countrymen, leaving the Ansahs altogether. I have heard from another source that 500 ounces of gold have been sent down from Kumasi for transmission to England.

5. If this is true, the consciousness of the Kumasi Chiefs that they have been deceived by the Ansahs may possibly operate usefully in influencing them to accede to the demands of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
WILLIAM MAXWELL.

Enclosure in No. 116.

Report of Captain Stewart and Mr. Vroom on their recent Mission to Kumasi.

Sir, Accra, October 26, 1895.

We have the honour to state that, in accordance with instructions received from his Excellency the Governor in a letter dated September 23, 1895, we proceeded to Kumasi, where we arrived on Monday the 7th.

We were given a good reception on our arrival; after proceeding to our quarters we sent a messenger to tell the King of Kumasi we had brought a letter from his Excellency the Governor which we would read to him, if he would appoint an early date to receive us. We also told him we intended leaving Kumasi on the 10th October. The King of Kumasi said he would receive us on the morning of the 10th.

On the morning of the 10th we read the letter to the King of Kumasi and his Chiefs and delivered the same to him through his linguists. We then asked permission to leave but they insisted on us staying till the following Monday to read the letter again, as some of the big Chiefs had not yet arrived. We did not see any use in waiting, as all the Kings and Chiefs were either present or represented, and their only reason for

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* No. 110.

asking evidently was to delay us, as they expected their messengers from Mr. Ansah, who they sent to England, to arrive daily. We again told them our instructions were not to wait but to return at once to the coast. They again asked us to wait; however, this we refused to do. After breakfast we sent to the King, asking leave to say "good bye" to him before leaving, but we got no answer to this till we were just going out and then it was the old story, we must wait. We then told the sword-bearer to the King that we were starting, but would go with him to the King's house to say "good bye" according to native etiquette; the sword-bearer said he was unable to take us to the King. We sent our compliments by the same sword-bearer and told him to tell the King we were leaving according to our original intention for the coast.

We had proceeded about two miles when we were followed by the King's linguists, sword-bearers, &c. and about a dozen Chiefs under Asafu Buatchi, the second war-chief, who stopped us on the road and again tried to get us to stay till the following week. We had to refuse, as our instructions were not to wait. While this palaver was going on, fresh messengers from the King of Kumasi came with the following present which they asked us to accept: 32*l.* 8*s.*, as they valued it, in gold dust, 2 sheep and 300 loads of vegetables. We were placed in an awkward position; considering the friendly way we had been received, we consider it would have been most impolitic to have refused at that stage any present from the King, and we hope that his Excellency the Governor will approve of our accepting the gold dust.

We sent in return to the King of Kumasi a present of twenty pounds (20*l.*) which represents about the true value of his present.

The idea of the King of Kumasi leaving his own country to meet anyone seemed most distasteful to everybody, and we can safely say there is no chance of a meeting between him and his Excellency the Governor outside Kumasi.

We were able to communicate with the King of Bekwai through his confidential linguist; from what we learnt, it seems the King of Bekwai has sworn a fresh oath of allegiance to the King of Kumasi about 40 days ago in consequence of some trouble between the two, with reference to Mr. Cade's recent visit there.

From the same linguist we were informed that the King of Bekwai would not sign any treaty unless it was forced on him, this was explained by our being told, that, if we raised the "flag" and gave the King of Bekwai a treaty, with orders to sign, he would then send and tell the King of Kumasi what had happened, informing him at the same time that he could not see his country destroyed by the white men. He also told us that, no matter what the King of Kumasi decided, he, the King of Bekwai, would take the "flag" and ask for protection from the Government. This was a course that was impossible for us to pursue as we had really no guarantee of good faith nor instructions to do so.

However, in explaining to the linguist that we could not do this at present, he assured us that, in case of war, no man of Bekwai would fight against us. We did everything in our power to persuade the King to sign a treaty: he evidently seems to have the will, but not the strength to declare himself at present.

With reference to the relative power of Kumasi and Bekwai, from enquiries made, we should put it down as "Kumasi" about 25,000 to 30,000 men, "Bekwai" about 2,500. Besides these in favour of Kumasi, Ofinsu has about 2,500, Egisu 1,500, Insuta 1,000.

In case, however, of an expedition against Kumasi, we think it would be safer to look upon all tribes in the Ashanti country as against us until they have openly declared themselves for us.

Samory has sent messengers to the King of Kumasi informing him that he has attacked and defeated King Agiman of Gaman, as he had refused to let him open a trade route through his country to the coast. The King of Kumasi in return said "he was glad to hear of King Agiman's defeat."

On the return of Samory's messengers, they were accompanied by messengers from the King of Kumasi with a great number of presents for Samory.

The presents, as stated to us, were 100 loads of salt, 100 loads of kola nuts, 100 loads of gin, 100 sheep, and 200 ounces of gold dust. Of course, the message that we know from Samory to the King of Kumasi was only the public one: what happened in private was impossible to find out.

We made inquiries with reference to the murder in Insuta of 16 Fantis belonging to Esekuma, but we could find nobody who had even heard of the crime. One Fanti trader who had just come from Ashanti Insuta that we questioned said he had never heard of such a murder, and if it had happened in that part of the country he thought he would have heard of it.

We hear there is another Insuta in Gaman territory; possibly the murder may have occurred there, especially as there has been fighting in Gaman lately. Perhaps they may have mixed the two places.

On the 18th of October 1895, Inkansa, the King of Adansi and his Chiefs, signed the treaty forwarded to us from your office and accepted the English flag.

The treaty in triplicate we beg to attach. The Adansis objected very strongly to the clause in the treaty with reference to slave dealing. However, notwithstanding that, they signed the treaty willingly. They will not be ready to return and occupy their country within the thirty days, as they stated they would sooner wait further instructions from the Government—in fact, wait further developments of our policy.

We should like to bring to his Excellency the Governor's notice Captain Cramer, the officer commanding our escort; he carried out his duties excellently. The Hausas under his command could not have behaved better, there were no complaints of any kind against them.

We have, &c.

DONALD STEWART, Captain,
Travelling Commissioner.

H. VROOM,
District Commissioner.

The Hon.
The Acting Colonial Secretary,
Accra.

TREATY of Friendship and Protection made at Prahsue this eighteenth day of October one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five between Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, &c., &c., Her heirs and successors, by her subject, Captain Donald William Stewart, an officer in the Civil Service of the Gold Coast Colony, acting under instructions received from His Excellency William Edward Maxwell, also a subject of Her Majesty, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Gold Coast Colony, on the one part, and the King, Chiefs and principal headmen of the country of Adansi on the other part.

Whereas Kweku Lukansa, King of the country of Adansi, and the Chiefs and principal headmen of that country, for and on behalf of themselves, their heirs, successors and people have presented to the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony a request that their country should be placed under the protection of Great Britain, and have agreed to enter into a treaty with Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, &c., &c., her heirs and successors, by the said Captain Donald William Stewart acting for that purpose for the said Governor.

Now, therefore, Kweku Lukansa, King of Adansi, and the Chiefs, and principal men of that country, whose names are herein-after signed to this treaty, for themselves, their heirs and successors and the people of Adansi on the one part, and his Excellency William Edward Maxwell, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Gold Coast Colony, a subject of and representing Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, &c., &c., her heirs and successors, by Captain Donald William Stewart, a subject of Her Majesty (acting for the Governor), on the other part, do hereby enter into this treaty containing the following Articles :—

ARTICLE I.

The King of the country of Adansi for himself and his lawful successors, together with the Chiefs and principal men of the country of Adansi, whose names are herein-after signed and seals affixed, for and on behalf of themselves and their successors and people of Adansi hereby place themselves under the protection of Great Britain, declaring that they have not entered into any treaty with any other foreign Power.

ARTICLE II.

Her Majesty's subject, the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, for and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, &c., &c., her heirs and successors hereby takes the country of Adansi under the protection of Great Britain.

ARTICLE III.

It is hereby agreed that the King, Chiefs, and principal men, together with the other people of Adansi will not enter into any war or commit any act of aggression on any of the Chiefs bordering on their country by which the trade of the country shall be interrupted, or the safety and property of the subjects of Her Majesty the Queen of England and Empress of India shall be lost, compromised, or endangered and that the said King, Chiefs, and principal men of Adansi hereby undertake to refer to the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, acting on behalf of Her Majesty, for friendly arbitration, any trade or other quarrels in which they may become involved before actually entering upon hostilities.

ARTICLE IV.

Should any difference or dispute accidentally arise between the King of Adansi and any of his Chiefs and principal headmen, or between any of the Chiefs and principal headmen, it shall be referred to the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, or to the nearest British authority, for the time being, whose decision shall be final and binding upon all parties concerned.

ARTICLE V.

British subjects shall have free access to all parts of Adansi, and shall have the right to build houses and possess property according to the law in force in the Gold Coast Colony: and they shall have full liberty to carry on such trade or manufacture as may be approved by any officer appointed for the purpose by Her Majesty's Government, and should any difference arise between the aforesaid British subjects and the King, Chiefs, and principal headmen of the country of Adansi as to the duties or customs to be paid to the said King, Chiefs, or the principal headmen of the towns in that country by such British subjects, or as to any other matter, that the dispute shall be referred to the officer mentioned in Article IV., whose decision in the matter shall be binding and final, and that the King, Chiefs, and principal headmen of Adansi will not extend the rights hereby guaranteed to British subjects to any other persons without the knowledge and consent of such officer.

ARTICLE VI.

In consideration of the protection guaranteed on the part of Great Britain to the King, Chiefs, and principal headmen and people of Adansi, they hereby bind themselves, their heirs, and successors to keep their main roads in good order, that they will encourage trade, and give facilities to traders, and will not cede their territory to, or accept a protectorate from, or enter into any agreement, arrangement, or treaty with, any other foreign Power except through and with the consent of the Government of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress.

ARTICLE VII.

The Government of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress will not prevent the King of Adansi or his Chiefs and principal headmen and their lawful successors from levying customary revenues appertaining to them according to the laws and customs of their country, nor in the administration thereof; and Her Majesty's Government will respect the habits and customs of the country, but will not permit human sacrifices; and slave dealing when brought to the notice of the Government will be punished according to the laws of the Gold Coast Colony

ARTICLE VIII.

This treaty shall come into force from the date hereof, but power is expressly reserved to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress to refuse to approve and ratify the same within one year from the date hereof. In witness whereof the parties to this treaty have hereunto set their hands and affixed their respective seals.

Done in triplicate at Prahsue, in the country of Assin, this 18th day of October, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, in the fifty-eighth year of the reign of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress.

Names of Signatories.	Their Marks and Seals.	
1. Kweku Inkansa, King of Adansi.	×	(Seal.)
2. Kofi Kwedu, War Chief of Adansi.	×	,,
3. Kojo Gimma, Chief of Ayowasi.	×	,,
4. Kweku Ashanti, Chief of Edubiasi.	×	,,
5. Akwesi Fori, Chief of Dompoasi.	×	,,
6. Kweku Afuakwa, Chief of Ekrofrome, represented by Yow Yamua.	×	,,
7. Yaw Apia, Chief of Akrochire.	×	,,
8. Kwabina Kwantabisa, Chief of Odumasi.	×	,,
9. Kweku Wia, Chief of Kwisa.	×	,,
10. Kwami Iduo, Chief of Brobidiasi.	×	,,
11. Kwami Essifi, Chief of Abejimu.	×	,,
12. Kwami Apeajo, represented by Yow Simpon, of Adomemu.	×	,,
13. Kwabina Chiadi, Chief of Eginasi.	×	,,
14. Kwesi Buabin, Chief of Medomma.	×	,,
15. Kofi Ammua, represented by Se-Kojo of Kianbusu.	×	,,

DONALD WILLIAM STEWART, Captain,
Travelling Commissioner,

An officer in the Civil Service of the Gold Coast Colony, for and on behalf of William Edward Maxwell, Governor of the Gold Coast Colony.

(Seal.)

Signed, sealed, and delivered in our presence, the same having been first read over and interpreted to the King, Chiefs, and people, who seemed perfectly to understand the meaning, conditions and scope of the foregoing treaty.

HE. VROOM,
District Commr.
J. H. CRAMER,
Captain.
R. A. IRVINE,
Captain.
M. HAWTREY,
Captain.
K. F. T. BUÉE,
A. C. S.

No. 117.

T. SUTHERST, Esq. to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received November 25, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 125.]

34, Grosvenor Square, London, W.,
November 22, 1895.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Ashanti envoys will be unable to leave England to-morrow, the 23rd, as originally intended, because they could not secure passages. I have, however, arranged for them to leave on Wednesday next, the 27th, by the S.S. "Roquelle" which is expected to arrive at Cape Coast Castle about the same time as the vessel leaving to-morrow, so that little, if any, time will be lost.

I desire also to inform you that the following cablegram has been despatched to Kumasi:

"Inform King assemble all Chiefs to capital, send over men to meet us, we are leaving."

This has been done to avoid delay, as I understand it takes some little time to summon the various Chiefs from the different parts of the Kingdom.

Reverting to your communication of the 19th,* in which you state "it is impossible to "understand why when approaching this Office through intermediaries they did not use "that authority some months ago to give the assurances demanded, and still more, why "they did not urge their King to send a satisfactory reply to the ultimatum forwarded "by the Governor.

"The fact that the messengers made no offer to accept the British terms until the "expedition was ordered, and that the King has not even to this date shown the slightest "disposition to comply with them, strengthens Mr. Chamberlain's distrust as to the real "object of the communications of which you have been the channel, since he cannot "conceal from himself the fact that if it were the intention of the King, and the desire "of his messengers, to procrastinate and delay the expedition until the wet season was "at hand, the course taken was one well calculated to effect that object: "

Permit me to direct your attention to a letter dated the 6th May 1895 from the envoys to Lord Ripon, of which the following is a copy: (*See* No. 34.)

To this Lord Ripon replied on the 9th of May 1895 as follows:—(*See* No. 35.)

The Ashanti envoys sent on the 22nd May 1895 the following reply: (*See* No. 42.)

This communication was ignored by Lord Ripon. Several other efforts were subsequently made by the Ashantis and their friends to obtain a hearing, until the point was reached opening with the letters I have had the honour of exchanging with you.

This correspondence shows that an ultimatum was sent to Kumasi on the 23rd September 1895 and that the King sent an immediate reply referring the Government to his envoys in London. But even then the Government refused to recognise them. The time expired at the end of October, and then follows the expedition.

I have felt myself obliged to recite these facts in order to trace the "genesis" of the expedition, and what do they prove? That the envoys have, since May last, repeatedly approached the Colonial Office in the most formal and deferential manner. That their authority to treat on behalf of their King has been confirmed through the Governor upon the delivery of the ultimatum, that no copy of the ultimatum was delivered to them either officially or unofficially until the 19th day of November 1895, which was after the expiration of the date fixed, and after the expedition had been ordered, nor were the envoys aware of its terms.

What more could the King or his envoys do? Why should their entreaties for a conference have been met by so many rebuffs and a demand that they should go back to the Gold Coast when they were, properly and legitimately, knocking at the door of the Colonial Office as peacemakers and would-be allies?

The King cannot speak English and is a mere youth, he despatched some of his most intelligent men and advisers to England, and it was only natural that, without interpreters and advisers, when he received the ultimatum, he should have said that his envoys, being then in England, would see the Government and settle all differences. And it is a matter of record that when the envoys did receive a copy of the ultimatum and discussed its terms, they accepted it within twenty-four hours.

In the face of these facts, it cannot be fairly concluded that the object of the King and envoys has been to procrastinate and delay the expedition until the wet season was at hand.

I venture to think that Lord Ripon acted without a proper appreciation of the situation when he, on the 9th of May last, rejected the advances of the envoys. That was the beginning of a policy which has now, fortunately, under your auspices, been partially reversed, and if the same firm and conciliatory attitude is pursued the result will fully justify the new departure.

In these circumstances, the Ashantis are, I venture to think, right in disclaiming the responsibility for the cost of the expedition, and, as this is the only point about which they feel hurt, I venture to hope that instructions have or will be given, which will either altogether relieve them or make the imposition as light and convenient as the circumstances justify.

May I again prefer the request that at all events some of the Chiefs should be seen either officially or unofficially before they depart, if for no other reason than to remove a reproach to our hospitality.

I am, &c.
THOMAS SUTHERST.

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* No. 113.

No. 118.

WAR OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received November 22, 1895.)

SIR, War Office, Pall Mall, S.W., November 22, 1895.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to transmit herewith six copies of the instructions which he proposes to give Sir F. Scott for the conduct of the expedition to Kumasi.

I am, &c.
ARTHUR L. HALIBURTON.

Enclosure in No. 118.

SIR, War Office, November 22, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the command of Her Majesty's land forces on the Gold Coast has been conferred upon you, in connexion with the difficulties which at present exist with the King of Kumasi, and I request that you will at once proceed to assume the command.

The object of the expeditionary force is to reach Kumasi without any unnecessary delay, and to enforce the acceptance by King Prempeh and the Ashantis of the terms demanded by the Government.

It had been the intention of Her Majesty's Government, if the King had accepted the ultimatum, to be satisfied with the establishment of a Resident at Kumasi under certain conditions. As, however, it has become necessary to take the extreme measure of sending an expeditionary force, Her Majesty's Government will, in addition to the terms of the ultimatum, require, as the messengers now in this country have been informed, that the cost which has been incurred should be repaid by the King, and the Governor will be instructed to make this one of the provisions of any treaty which may be concluded.

The action of the King having rendered the despatch of a military expedition necessary, it has been decided that, whether the King submits or not before the expedition crosses the Prah, a force must proceed to Kumasi to escort the Resident and enforce the terms of peace. In the event of his submission, the extent and the composition of the force to be sent to Kumasi will have to be settled in consultation with the Governor, and reported by telegraph for the approval of this Department.

If the King's submission is not received before the Prah has been crossed, no stoppage *en route* to Kumasi should be permitted for purposes of negotiation. If the Prah be once crossed, the terms of peace must be arranged and concluded in Kumasi.

Further instructions as to the course to be adopted after you reach Kumasi will be communicated to you either direct from me or through the Governor of the Gold Coast.

When you have reached Kumasi, and subdued opposition on the part of the Ashantis, you will fortify the position selected for the Residency and will leave there such a detachment of Houssa constabulary as, in consultation with the Governor, may be considered sufficient to hold Kumasi and protect the Resident.

I shall not fetter you by any detailed instructions respecting your duties in command of the force. I would remind you, however, that the expedition is one the chief difficulties of which will probably arise from want of roads and ordinary means of transport, and in which the losses sustained will, as far as can be foreseen, occur chiefly through sickness, &c., due to climatic and local causes rather than to the operations of the enemy.

Your local experience will lead you to take all possible measures to reduce the dangers from climatic causes. For instance, you will arrange that bodies of white troops are not landed until they can proceed at once to the Prah, and that no avoidable delay in the advance on Kumasi takes place at the Prah.

In evacuating the country, which should be effected as soon as the presence of the European force is no longer essential, every effort should be used to despatch the troops to the coast without delay.

The force placed under you will consist of:—

A special corps of infantry from England, consisting of 252 officers and men.

The 2nd Bn. West Yorkshire Regiment, about 420 officers and men.

A wing of the 2nd Bn. West India Regiment from Sierra Leone, 400 officers and men.

Special Service officers, Royal Engineers, Army Service and Army Medical Staff Corps, and other details, about 250 officers and men, besides the medical establishment on board a hospital ship at Cape Coast which will be equipped to provide for 10 sick officers and 100 sick non-commissioned officers and men.

About 500 Houssa police will, it is anticipated, be available from the Colonial establishments on the West Coast for the purpose of the expedition.

You have been, and will continue to be, furnished with printed details and other information as to all arrangements connected with the despatch or troops, stores, and supplies decided upon, and you are aware of the orders sent to the coast to obtain carriers for the expedition.

It is not necessary to repeat the details, and I have only to add that, if any points arise upon which you require assistance or instruction, you should at once communicate with me.

I have, &c.
LANSDOWNE.

Colonel Sir Francis C. Scott,
K.C.M.G., C.B.

No. 119.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.

SIR, Downing Street, November 22, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for your information and guidance, copies of the instructions* which have been given by the Secretary of State for War to Colonel Sir Francis Scott, K.C.M.G., as commander of the expedition to Kumasi.

I have, &c.
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 120.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.
(Sent 4.40 p.m., November 23, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

[*Answered by No.* 122.]

In reply to your telegram of November 22,† messengers have been informed that King's submission must be made to you, and that it is by you and with you only that a treaty can be negotiated. As soon as I am informed that messengers have left for Gold Coast, I shall acquaint you by telegraph, with a view to their being met, for you must consider whether they should go on with Scott and expedition, or whether you would detach special service officers to accompany them to Kumasi. In that case you would consider with Scott what escort these officers should have.

What do you mean by "credentials" in last sentence in your telegram?

No. 121.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received 4.50 p.m., November 23, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Have seen following message, sent 16th November:—*Telegram begins:* We have accepted Resident; hope to conclude treaty to-morrow; inform King quickly Ashanti Envoys.—*Telegram ends.*

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* Enclosure in No. 118.

† No. 114A.

No. 122.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received 7.40 p.m., November 24, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

May I venture to express deep sense of consistent support of position of Governor of Gold Coast? In order to make good impression on friendly tribes necessary that special messengers on arrival at Cape Coast Castle officially announce to me in person that they accept ultimatum. I could then take measures to instal Resident, but, if they are accredited to Her Majesty's Government only, possibility of evasive conduct upon this pretext. I therefore suggested in my telegram of 22nd November* that King should send abstract of fresh credentials to them; but this would not relieve King of necessity to meet me [at] Prahsu [to] negotiate treaty.

No. 123.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received 12.32 p.m., November 25, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

King of Nkoranza, in letter dated 6th November, expressed apprehension that he would be attacked by Samory, at instigation of Kumasi. Simultaneously at Cape Coast Castle there are rumours of Samory advancing to the eastward behind Ashanti. Sending detachment to Nkoranza 27th November. Under the circumstances, it appears advisable to reinforce detachment. Shall I send 150 men? Can dispense with Bompata detachment if Scott sees no objection.

No. 124.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received 1.8 p.m., November 25, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Referring to your telegram of 15th November,† I forwarded letter to Samory at Bontuku by two special messengers 20th November. In view of news recently received from Nkoranza, through Ferguson, am sending fresh special messengers to Samory from the eastward warning him that Nkoranza friendly to us.

No. 125.

COLONIAL OFFICE to T. SUTHERST, ESQ.

SIR, Downing Street, November 25, 1895.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant,‡ and to state, in reply, that he sees no advantage in continuing the correspondence on this subject.

It is Mr. Chamberlain's earnest hope that the result of the expedition to Kumasi will be peaceful, but the issue rests with the King, as to whose intentions he has at present no means of judging with certainty.

I am further to state that Mr. Chamberlain sees no reason for re-considering his decision not to receive the Ashanti Chiefs either officially or unofficially, though he regrets that they should have been led to undertake a journey which they cannot but have known before they left Africa would have no results.

I am to add that information received from other sources tends to throw doubt upon the attitude of submission which they now adopt, as not being in harmony with that assumed by them at an earlier period of their stay in this country.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

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* No. 114A. † No. 105. ‡ No. 117.

No. 126.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.

SIR, Downing Street, November 26, 1895.

IN continuation of my Despatch of 22nd instant,* I have the honour to transmit, for your information, copies of further correspondence† with Mr. Thomas Sutherst, on the subject of the Ashanti messengers in this country.

The concluding paragraph of the letter from this Department of 25th instant‡ is founded upon a statement made here verbally by Lieut.-Col. O'Gorman, of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, retired.

He stated that he had been in communication with the Ashantis since their arrival, and had from the very first urged them to give him some definite proposal to submit to the Secretary of State. He produced a letter from them dated in May last refusing to do this, and added that, in conversation, they would hear of nothing but war. He said that he had been laid up with illness for some time or would have called earlier.

The Ashanti messengers leave by the "Roquelle"; their passage money appears to have been paid by a cheque of Mr. Sutherst's.

I have, &c.
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 127.

J. OSSOO ANSAH, ESQ., to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received November 27, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 129.]

Ashanti Embassy, 5, Park Crescent, Portland Place,
MY LORD, November 26, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that Chief Boatin, Chief Fokoo, Captain Inkrumah, and Captain Bondah, members of the Embassy from our Sovereign the King of Ashanti, are departing to-night for the Gold Coast, on their way to Kumasi, and that I will leave with Prince Albert A. Ossoo Ansah by the first boat leaving Southampton this week to catch the "Roquelle" at the Islands, and proceed home with them.

I have, &c.
JOHN OSSOO ANSAH,
Prince of Ashanti.

No. 128.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received November 27, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Fresh special messengers Kumasi have arrived at Prahsu; further reports later on.

No. 129.

COLONIAL OFFICE to J. OSSOO ANSAH, ESQ.

SIR, Downing Street, November 27, 1895.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 26th instant,§ addressed to the Earl of Selborne, in which you state that four

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* No. 115. † Nos. 117 and 125. ‡ No. 125. § No. 127.

of the Ashanti messengers are returning to Africa in the s.s. "Roquelle," and that you and your brother will proceed by the first boat leaving Southampton this week to catch the "Roquelle" at the Canary Islands, and go on with the others.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 130.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.

TELEGRAPHIC.

November 27.—Four of the messengers, Boatin, Fokoo, Inkrumah, and Bondah, sailed to-day in "Roquelle" for Cape Coast Castle. Ansahs proceed *vid* Southampton, meeting "Roquelle" at Canary.

No. 131.

MESSRS. ELDER, DEMPSTER, & CO. to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received November 30, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

The two Prince Ansahs have come down post haste this morning. Want us keep "Loanda" back. Cannot take them till next Saturday.

No. 132.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received November 30, 1895.)

Government House, Accra,
November 7, 1895.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of the orders which have been issued, under my instructions, to the Officer commanding the detachment at Prahsu.

I have, &c.
WILLIAM MAXWELL.

Enclosure 1 in No. 132.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE OFFICER COMMANDING, PRAHSU.

1. You will be in command of the whole detachment.
2. You will return all or as many as you think proper of the carriers already engaged for the conveyance of stores and ammunition. You will, of course, weed out useless or sick men, sending them back to Cape Coast to be paid. The sums at the credit of those who are able-bodied will give you a complete hold over them. They should be mustered every morning and set to some useful work, under the eye of a Hausa guard if necessary.
3. The work meant is clearing bush, felling trees, digging wells, cutting firewood, drawing water, building huts, &c.
4. The Director of Public Works has instructions to make a bridge across the Prah at Prahsu at an early date; you will, therefore, give the officers of the Public Works Department every assistance in your power, and will utilise your carriers in procuring materials, or providing transport for them.
5. You will exercise strict surveillance over both ferries, and, without in any way interfering with trade, you will not permit any arms or ammunition to be taken from the Colony into Ashanti.

Should it be necessary, you will furnish covering parties for public works, labourers employed in bridge work.

6. You will place yourself in communication with the King of Adansi, with whom Captain Stewart, under the Governor's directions, has just concluded a Treaty, and you will encourage him and his people to re-occupy their country.

7. Should messengers arrive from Kumasi with any message for the Governor, you will send them on as quickly as possible, urging them to take the shortest route possible, and providing them with an escort of one or two men, if they desire it.

8. You will not move your men across the Prah, except for the purpose of covering parties, as above directed, until you receive instructions to do so.

9. You will attend carefully to the sanitation of the camp, the vicinity of which must be clear of rubbish and refuse of all description.

10. You should construct a field latrine, and punish summarily all cases of nuisance.

11. You should build more huts gradually, as the post may be occupied by a large number of men at some future time.

12. You will keep a diary in which you will record all events worthy of note, and you will send a copy of this diary to head-quarters from time to time.

November 4th, 1895.

No. 133.

J. E. HARRIS, Esq., to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received December 3, 1895.)

95, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.,
December 2, 1895.

SIR,

I AM directed to inform you that Princes John and Albert Ansah upon arrival at Liverpool, on Saturday, were informed that room could not be reserved for them in the steamer leaving that day for the Gold Coast. Under those circumstances, the Princes are compelled to postpone their departure for one week from last Saturday. On inquiry it was ascertained that the boat leaving on Wednesday does not arrive at its destination for some days after the arrival of the Saturday's steamer.

I have, &c.
J. E. HARRIS.

No. 134.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received December 3, 1895.)

EXTRACT.

Government House, Accra, November 13, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report that two messengers from Yao Sapong, King of Juabin, have arrived at Accra, ostensibly to ask for the Juabin "stool," but possibly to ascertain what is going on here in the nature of preparations for an expedition to Kumasi. They did not address themselves to any Government official on arrival, but went to Mr. Edmund Bannerman, a local lawyer, who has communicated to me their statement. Of this I have the honour to transmit to you the enclosed extract.

I requested Mr. Vroom to interview these men, but before he could do so they had disappeared. Their statement as to the intention of the Kumasi people to offer armed resistance to a British expedition must be taken with some reserve. If the idea (sedulously propagated, I regret to say, here by a section of the Fantis and the local press) obtains general credence in Kumasi that the object of an expedition is to place Acheriboanda on the stool, there will certainly be resistance.

Enclosure in No. 134.

EXTRACT from the STATEMENT made by the two messengers of YAO SAPONG, King of Juabin, on November 9, 1895.

"Twenty-one days before we left Komengo, King Prempeh sent three messengers to inform Yao Sapong that white men were coming to Coomassie and he was preparing to fight

them, and he wanted our King to come to his assistance with all his forces. Our King said "all right" and sent two messengers of his own to accompany Prempeh's three, to Coomassie, to ascertain the truth, but they had not returned before we left.

"Ten days before we started, some of our people who had been to Coomassie on their own affairs returned and told us that the white man had come and gone, that the King Prempeh had sworn, together with his Chiefs, the great oath, to fight any white man that came there again. It is true that Prempeh is preparing for war. This is all we know." * * * * * *

No. 135.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received December 3, 1895.)

SIR, Government House, Accra, November 13, 1895.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday's date,* I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the proceedings at the Secretariat yesterday, when the Acting Colonial Secretary, by my instructions, received the messengers of the King of Kumasi.

2. The manner of the delivery of this message is evidently intentionally insulting. The men sent down are mere subordinates, and not of a class to be entrusted with an important message to the Governor of one of Her Majesty's Colonies. I have not, therefore, seen them.

3. Achempon and Dabban, the two men who returned from London in September reached Kumasi on the 14th. The news brought by them, whatever it was, had therefore been before the King and Chiefs for three weeks before a reply was sent to me, and it is just possible that there may have been an interchange of telegraphic messages between the Kumasi authorities and John Ansah in London in the interval. In any case the message sent is in accordance with Ansah's published views, and it may be presumed that he would advise against the resumption of direct negotiations between Accra and Kumasi which would be inconsistent with his remaining in London. It is probable that he is still deluding the King and Chiefs of Kumasi that he can do something for them.

4. I propose to instruct the Acting Colonial Secretary to give a verbal message to the Kumasi messengers for delivery, warning the King against the Ansahs. He will then dismiss them.

I have, &c.
WILLIAM MAXWELL.

Enclosure in No. 135.

MEMORANDUM of the PROCEEDINGS on the occasion of the RECEPTION of MESSENGERS from KUMASI.

The Secretariat, Victoriaborg, Accra,
November 12, 1895.

Present:

Alvan Millson, Esq., Acting Colonial Secretary.
Captain Donald Stewart, Mr. Vroom } Late Commissioners to Ashanti.
T. H. Richards, Esq., Acting Chief Assistant Colonial Secretary.
G. Attrill, Esq., C. H. Hunter Esq., (acting) } Assistant Colonial Secretaries.
The Ashanti messengers—
1. Kwaku Abura (sword-bearer),
2. Kofi Akwa (court-crier),
and two followers, one of whom bore the sword of office of the King of Kumasi (sheathed), and the other the gold plaque of an attendant on the King of Kumasi.

1. The messengers shook hands and were seated.

2. The Acting Colonial Secretary asked if they were accredited messengers from the King, and enquired their names.

* No. 97.

3. They said that they were accredited messengers bearing the King's sword, and plaque, and that they had a message for the Governor.

4. The Acting Colonial Secretary said that he was deputed by the Governor to hear their message which he would convey to his Excellency, who might, or might not, see them according to his good pleasure.

5. The spokesman, Kwaku Abura (the sword-bearer) then said to Mr. Vroom who was interpreting, "you and the white man sitting next to you (Captain Stewart) came "to Kumasi with other white men and delivered a letter to the King from the Governor. "This letter was read and explained to the King, who asked you to remain at Kumasi "until he could summon his head Chiefs. We were given twenty-one days for an "answer. You told us that you were going to have your breakfast. By and by we "heard that you were on the road to the coast. We sent to beg you to stay but you "refused."

6. The messengers then sat down.

7. The Acting Colonial Secretary then said: "But what is your message?"

8. Kwaku Abura replied: "We wish to deliver our message to the Governor."

9. The Acting Colonial Secretary replied: "You are twelve days late in bringing "it. The Governor has deputed me to hear for his Excellency what you have to say. "I will then convey your message to the Governor, who may, or may not, see you."

10. Kwaku Abura then rose and spoke as follows: "Some time ago you (addressing "Mr. Vroom) brought us a letter. You and the white man beside you came for an "answer. We have sent already Boatin and Ansah and other Chiefs with our reply to "the Queen of England. The King has consulted with his Chiefs and this is all they "have to say that Boatin and other Chiefs are in England with the King's proposals.

11. The Acting Colonial Secretary said:—"Is that all your message?"

12. The sword-bearer answered: "That is all our message."

13. The Acting Colonial Secretary said: "I am deputed by the Governor to hear, not to speak. I will lay the message before his Excellency."

ALVAN MILLSON,
Acting Colonial Secretary.
D. STEWART, Captain,
Travelling Commissioner.
H. VROOM,
Interpreter and District Commissioner.

No. 136.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received 4.15 p.m., 3rd December 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Good progress made. Camps will be ready in a week. Telegraph line as far as Mansu will be ready in a fortnight. Means of transport very hopeful. Rainy weather [at] Prahsu. Cases of sickness amongst Hausas. Am about to send working party [to] select and prepare camps on the other side of Prah. Nothing heard of preparations for war.

No. 137.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received December 8, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

(EXTRACT.)

Special messenger who was stopped at Abe has arrived at last, having left Samory seven months ago, bringing as a present four elephant tusks. He does not know of any hostile operations [against] Nkoranza.

No. 138.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received December 12, 1895.)

SIR, Government House, Accra, November 18, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in pursuance of the instructions contained in your telegraphic despatches of the 11th and 15th instant,* I have given all necessary directions.

2. The total strength of the Hausa Constabulary, including officers, is 974. These will be distributed as follows :—

Prahsu	already there		175
	to proceed there		402
Bompata			100
Nkoranza			50
Garrisons in the Colony	Accra	50	110
	Kwitta	20	
	Cape Coast	10	
	Elmina	30	
Non-effectives	Recruits	76	121
	Priests	3	
	Pay-clerks	12	
	On sick list	30	
Officers			16
			974

The detachments for Prahsu, Bompata, and Nkoranza will be ready to leave for their stations on the 23rd instant. The Bompata detachment will be commanded by Inspector O'Donnell, with whom there will be Assistant-Inspector Armitage and a doctor. They will take one Maxim gun. The Nkoranza detachment will be under the command of Assistant-Inspector Cramer, who knows the country. The Prahsu detachment will be commanded by Inspector Mitchell.

3. A messenger left on the 15th instant with a letter for Mr. G. E. Ferguson, directing him to pay off his road labourers and proceed to Attabubu to await the arrival of the Hausa detachment, 38 strong. His escort, 12 in number, will bring up the detachment to 50.

4. Before the receipt of your telegram I had already given instructions to have bush cleared at Prahsu (see enclosure forwarded with my Despatch of the 7th of November†), and rest-houses had been begun at Dunkwa, Mansu, and Fesu. Fresh instructions have now been given as to the erection of shelter huts and field-hospital at Prahsu, and shelter-huts at four or more places between Cape Coast Castle and Prahsu. Captain Stewart and Inspector Larymore proceed to Cape Coast to day or to-morrow to superintend these works and to organise transport.

5. I note that it is estimated that 6,000 carriers will be required. In order to check imposition on the part of the native inhabitants, who are inclined to think themselves indispensable, I have commenced by ordering 500 Yorubas from Lagos. These men will, it is believed, make good scouts if armed, and, being away from their own country and friends, will, probably, be more amenable to discipline than the Gold Coast natives. It will depend upon the behaviour of the latter whether the transport force required is recruited from them or whether more Yorubas are imported.

6. A foreman of works (Holmes, late R.E.) has left for Prahsu to commence a bridge. This will be a floating construction made with timber and cement-barrels. Each section will be a raft, and the requisite number of sections, when towed into place and moored from the banks, will form a bridge.

7. No difficulty has been experienced in "making market" at Prahsu. I made special inquiry about this early in October, and Assistant-Inspector Hawtrey reported supplies plentiful. I am, however, inquiring as to the advisability of contracting for the delivery of certain necessaries, such as cattle, sheep, goats, rice, biscuits, palm-oil, and other articles of native diet.

8. Instructions have been given to provide storage at Cape Coast Castle for Imperial stores, and to prepare accommodation for the two Imperial officers who, it is presumed,

* Nos. 91 and 105. † No. 132.

left on the 16th instant. The necessary steps will be taken as regards surf-boats and hammocks.

9. I am anxious to confer upon several subjects with Sir Claude MacDonald and Sir Gilbert Carter, who are understood to be likely to be at Accra this month on their outward voyage, but as soon as possible after this interview I propose to proceed to Cape Coast in order to superintend in person the preparations for the expedition.

10. I have summoned the principal Native Chiefs of the Eastern part of the Protectorate to a meeting here this week, and I shall hold a similar meeting of the Chiefs of the Western Province next month, when I shall explain to them what is expected of them during the progress of the expedition.

I have, &c.
WILLIAM MAXWELL.

No. 139.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received December 12, 1895.)

Government House, Accra,
November 19, 1895.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that it has to-day been reported to me from Cape Coast that the King of Kumasi has been dethroned, and that the Queen Mother has been put in his place.

2. I am making inquiries as to the foundation for this report, which I am not able to accept as probable in its present shape. It has been well understood that Prempeh has been little more than a puppet in the hands of his father and mother. If he is dethroned they would naturally disappear with him.

3. The information as now presented, if true, is susceptible of various interpretations. It may mean that Prempeh, in view of possible hostilities, is being removed to some place of safety, while his mother acts for him. Or it may mean that the peace party has prevailed, and has dethroned the King, who has led them into difficulties with Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
WILLIAM MAXWELL.

No. 140.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received December 13, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

EXTRACT.

My messenger, a Hausa native officer, returned from Bontuku yesterday. He left Elmina on the 25th of September incognito and reached Soko on the 22nd of October. Samory invited him to visit him at his camp outside Bontuku. He witnessed the reception of the mission from Kumasi, numbering 300 and bringing a present. The King of Kumasi asked Samory to help him to recover all the countries from Gaman to the Coast which originally belonged to Ashanti. The mission said that the King will not have anything to do with the English. The nature of the reply of Samory is unknown. At Kokwamu my messenger found messengers from Kumasi with 100 men trying to persuade the inhabitants who are under the King of Kokofu to swear allegiance to Kumasi. A despatch follows by mail.

No. 141.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received 4.50 p.m., December 17, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Kumasi attacked Bekwai on account of supposed friendly relations with British Government. Inhabitants taken refuge in Denkera.

No. 142.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received 3.5 p.m., December 18, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

YOUR despatch of 22nd November* arrived to-day; unfortunately sent to Accra. Meanwhile, I had seen native messengers in public; full particulars given in press telegram. Ansah said to be expected on 21st December. I will then decide definitely, with reference to paragraph 5, what force must go Kumasi.

No. 143.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received 4.5 p.m., December 19, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Ansah not arrived in "Loanda." Chief Boatin and others left for Kumasi this evening. They have requested me, on behalf of King of Kumasi, that Ansah may be sent Kumasi on arrival.

No. 144.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received 6.45 p.m., December 20, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

NATIVE members of Mission started for Kumasi yesterday evening. Decline to make submission, Ansah not being here. Complain of injuries, namely, reference to Atcheriboanda in letter dated 23rd February 1894, and extension of British protection [to] friendly tribes under treaty. Object of Mission [to] England [to] make representations [as to] both of these complaints. Instructed them to communicate following [to] King [and] Chiefs: King must come [to] Prah to negotiate Treaty with Governor [of] Gold Coast; expenses to fall on Kumasi, due proportion to be paid at once, further instalments per annum; total amount payable to be finally settled Kumasi; must insist on recognition of British Protectorate [over] friendly tribes; hostages to be given [for] fulfilment of engagements; also site of strong fort. Native members of Mission asserted emphatically nothing known of official documents by which Ansah invested with full powers.

No. 145.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received December 20, 1895.)

Government House, Accra,
November 23, 1895.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of the instructions which I have given to the officers commanding the detachments of the Gold Coast Constabulary, who will start on the 25th instant for Bompata and Nkoranza respectively. 22nd Nov. 1895. 22nd Nov. 1895.

I have &c.
WILLIAM MAXWELL.

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* No. 115.

Enclosure 1 in No. 145.

To the Officer Commanding Detachment Gold Coast Constabulary, Bompata.

Government House, Accra,
November 22, 1895.

You will proceed at once with the detachment under your command to Bompata, where you will await the receipt of further orders.

Thirty-six copies of blank forms of treaties are forwarded to you herewith. Every Treaty is to be executed in triplicate.

You are authorised and instructed to inform Yow Sapon, King of Juabin, that I am prepared to enter into a Treaty of protection with him at his request, and, if he again expresses his desire for this, you may conclude a Treaty with him on my behalf, giving as much publicity and importance as possible to the ceremony.

The object of sending your detachment to Bompata is to make a demonstration on the right flank while the main body of the expeditionary force advances from Prahsu, and also to ensure the neutrality of the Juabins and other tribes through Yow Sapon.

Pending the receipt of further instructions, you will cultivate friendly relations with the people, and ascertain what support you have to expect as regards transport, commissariat, guides, scouts, &c., if you are called upon to co-operate with the main body by advancing against Kumasi from the east.

These orders are preliminary only. You will receive further and final orders when despatches arrive from England.

You should give out everywhere in the most public manner that it is only against Kumasi that operations are directed, and that tribes which remain neutral and hoist the British flag will be protected.

You will be supplied with flags to give to Kings with whom Treaties of protection are concluded.

WILLIAM MAXWELL.

Enclosure 2 in No. 145.

To the Officer Commanding Detachment Gold Coast Constabulary, Nkoranza.

Government House, Accra,
November 22, 1895.

You will proceed at once with the detachment under your command to Atabubu, where you will await the receipt of further orders.

Mr. G. E. Ferguson will accompany your detachment on political duty.

Thirty-six copies of blank forms of treaties are forwarded to you herewith. Every Treaty is to be executed in triplicate.

The object of sending Mr. Ferguson to Nkoranza is to conclude a Treaty of protection with the King of that State, whose independence of Kumasi will be recognized. It will probably also be part of his mission to collect a force of Nkoranzas to co-operate with you in a flank attack on Kumasi from the north-east at the same time that the main attack is delivered by the expeditionary force under Sir Francis Scott advancing from the south. The Nkoranzas are to be called out and got ready. Arms and ammunition will be sent up to supplement what they have already got. It is desired also to conclude treaties of protection with Insuta, Agogo, and Kumawu, and to encourage these tribes to remain passive and neutral.

These orders are preliminary only. You will receive further and final orders when despatches arrive from England.

You should give out everywhere in the most public manner that it is only against Kumasi that operations are directed, and that tribes which remain neutral, and hoist the British flag, will be protected.

You will be supplied with flags to give to Kings with whom Treaties of protection are concluded.

Two messengers, sent by the King of Mampong (Senkere), will be attached to your force. They are charged with the duty of explaining everywhere that tribes must disassociate themselves from Kumasi. They will also act as guides.

WILLIAM MAXWELL.

No. 146.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received December 20, 1895.)

[*Answered by No.* 147.]

Government House, Accra,
SIR, November 23, 1895.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 21st instant,* containing a summary of correspondence with Mr. Sutherst on the 14th, 15th, and 16th instant, I have the honour to inform you that, subject to any instructions that I may receive from you by despatches or telegrams, I propose to act as follows, on the return of the Kumassi envoys next month.

1. They will, I gather, leave England to-day, and may be expected to arrive in the Colony about the time that this despatch is delivered in London. My present intention is to remove my headquarters to Elmina a few days before their arrival, and to require them to seek an interview there, for I have reason to believe that a wrong impression was created when my predecessor last year went to Cape Coast to meet them, instead of requiring them to seek an audience with him at Accra.

2. I propose to require them to signify to me, when they are publicly received, their acceptance, on behalf of the King and Chiefs of Kumassi, of the terms of the ultimatum. Should they seek to evade doing this on the ground that the communication has already been made through Mr. Sutherst to Her Majesty's Government, I shall point out to them that in your letter of the 18th instant† to Mr. Sutherst the necessity of producing proper credentials is insisted on, and that that gentleman's signifying the complete acceptance of the terms of Her Majesty's Government was only accepted for what it may be worth. It will therefore be necessary for them to show to me that they are properly accredited envoys, and, having satisfied me as to this, to signify their acceptance of the ultimatum on behalf of the King and Chiefs.

3. I gather from the terms of the telegram sent by the "Ashanti envoys" to Cape Coast on the 18th instant (the words of which I telegraphed to you yesterday),‡ that they wish it to be inferred in Kumasi that they have conducted negotiations in London. Regardless of the real facts, they and their employers may be expected to give out that they have carried their point in negotiating otherwise than through the Governor, and I feel sure that I shall have your approval in obliging them to show publicly by their conduct that it is to me that they signify the submission of the King.

4. It is difficult at present to foresee whether King Prempeh will come down to Prahsu to meet me. It may be hoped that, in order to avoid increased military expenditure and possible hostilities, he will do so. In this case, I would return with him to Kumassi to make final arrangements, and select a site for the Residency, before returning to the coast.

5. Should he refuse to come to Prahsu, I trust that you will permit me to proceed to Kumassi to impose terms, either with, or immediately after, the expeditionary force.

I have, &c.
WILLIAM MAXWELL.

No. 147.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR MAXWELL.
(Sent December 23, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Your despatch of 23rd November,§ last paragraph. Use your discretion. See paragraph 7 my despatch of 22nd November.‖

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* No. 114. † No. 111. ‡ No. 121.
§ No. 146. ‖ No. 115.

No. 148.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received December 27, 1895.)

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,
December 4, 1895.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that I arrived here on the 2nd instant, in order to be able to superintend on the spot such of the preparations for the Kumasi expedition as fall upon the Colonial Government.

2. I have given, after a close inspection of this castle, all necessary orders as to the allotment of accommodation for officers, men, and stores. Quarters have also been obtained on the premises of the Wesleyan Mission, who have obligingly placed them at my disposal.

3. I have received a satisfactory report of the progress made with the camps between this and Prahsu. Shelter huts have been erected at six places, namely, Jaykuma, Accroful, Dunkwa, Mansu, Nsuta, and Assin Yankomasi. Drinking water is not obtainable at the first and second of these places, and special arrangements are being made to store water there in casks. At Prahsu, shelter huts have been erected and a field-hospital is being built, but the area available for building is limited, and has been further circumscribed by floods, consequent upon heavy rain.

3rd December 1895. 4. The preliminary medical arrangements which are being made are those described in the enclosed report from Dr. Henderson, who proceeds to Prahsu to-day to inspect the progress of the field-hospital.

5. A large number of carriers are already employed, and have been used for transporting telegraph stores and materials for the bridge at Prahsu. I expect to have at least 3,000 carriers available next week, and all the chiefs have been ordered to send contingents. These will continue to come in gradually. Delay and neglect of orders are to be expected in some instances, and it is possible that examples may have to be made. Before leaving Accra, I settled the draft of a Compulsory Labour Bill, which will be introduced in the Legislative Council at Accra to-day under the presidency of the Chief Justice. The task of feeding 10,000 carriers (that being the number of carriers named by the War Office) gives me some anxiety, and it will be necessary, no doubt, later, to issue rations of rice and meat.

6. Inspector Larymore has been appointed transport officer, and has been placed under the orders of Captain Stewart, Travelling Commissioner, to whom I entrusted the duty of preparing the camps and engaging carriers. The want of special transport officers is already much felt, and the proper organisation of the transport service cannot be hoped for until they arrive by the "Angola" this week. All my available officers are at Krobo and Akwapim, enforcing orders as to the engagement of carriers. I depend upon those districts to supply some thousands.

4th December 1895. 7. I am taking measures to continue on the other side of the Prah the preparation of camps and the erection of shelter huts, and I have the honour to enclose the instructions which I have to-day issued to the officer commanding the detachment there (Inspector Aplin).

8. In accordance with a telegram received from Sir Francis Scott from Grand Canary, I have directed that the Bompata and Nkoranza detachments shall be amalgamated, and shall proceed to Nkoranza. The officer in command of the detachment is Inspector O'Donnell, and he has with him Assistant-Inspectors Cramer and Armitage. Doctors McCarthy and Nicholson accompany this detachment.

9. The services of 20 surf-boats and crews have been secured by contract at 9*s*. a trip for the whole period of the expedition, including the re-embarkation of the troops and stores. There are also two Government surf-boats here, making 22 in all.

10. I have had no further communication from Kumasi. It has been reported to me that messengers Tufoo and Dabban are on their way down to Cape Coast Castle, but it is probable that their mission is to the Messrs. Ansah and not to me. I have heard to-day that messengers are on their way to me from Samory, but I do not know what truth there may be in this.

11. I do not now attach any importance to the rumoured dethronement of the King of Kumasi alluded to in my despatch of the 19th November last.*

I have, &c.
WILLIAM MAXWELL.

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* No. 139.

Enclosure 1 in No. 148.

Dr. HENDERSON to the PRIVATE SECRETARY.

SIR, Cape Coast Castle, December 3, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor, the arrangements I propose for the formation of a base hospital at this station, for the troops composing the intended expedition against Kumasi.

(1.) The Colonial Hospital to be evacuated and utilised for the sick of the white troops. One ward could be reserved for officers.

(2.) Men of the West India Regiment and the Hausas to be placed in huts on Connor's Hill.

(3.) A hut on Connor's Hill to be converted into a temporary Colonial Hospital.

(4.) If necessary, some additional accommodation for troops could be provided in the Colonial Hospital at Elmina.

(5.) If the number of beds on hand should prove insufficient, stretchers could quickly be made by the Public Works Department.

(6.) The necessary attendance will be supplied by men of the Army Medical Staff Corps, who it may be assumed will accompany the troops, assisted by the subordinates of the Colonial Medical Staff.

2. Prahsu. A site has been selected here for a base hospital, by Captain Stewart and Dr. Buée, and the building is now in progress. I have given as follows, the dimensions for two buildings, each to contain 25 beds. Length, 85 feet; width, 25 feet; height, 16 feet; to eaves, 8 feet; a bamboo floor to be made, raised 12 to 18 inches from the ground. I have already requisitioned for 30 stretchers for these hospitals, and as most of the sick will remain at Prahsu for one or two days only, I think this number sufficient; if necessary, a man can sleep very comfortably on the ordinary field stretcher. Small houses for the attendants and wash-houses and latrines will also be built.

3. I intend leaving to-morrow for Prahsu to see how the work is progressing, and to offer any suggestions for improvements. I also purpose inspecting the various camping grounds, and seeing to the water supply, sanitation, &c.

4. The medicines and stores for the Colonial troops are expected to arrive by an early steamer, and I am making arrangements to have them landed, and stored in stores which I have had prepared in the Colonial Hospital.

5. On my return from Prahsu, I shall complete the arrangements for the base hospital here; and shall have the drugs, instruments, medical comforts, &c. unpacked, repacked in proper ambulance cases (which are being made in Accra, and should reach here by next steamer), and sent on to the front.

6. As I understand some troops are to cross the Prah in a few days, I propose sending Dr. Taylor up at once, so that he may accompany them; Dr. Buée to remain during the expedition at the base at Prahsu.

I have, &c.
W. R. HENDERSON,
Surgeon-Captain,
Colonial Surgeon.

Enclosure 2 in No. 148.

From the GOVERNOR to the OFFICER COMMANDING at PRAHSU.

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,

TO THE OFFICER COMMANDING AT PRAHSU, December 4, 1895.

I AM sending 50 men, Hausa Constabulary, to strengthen your detachment. An officer will shortly be sent, and another medical officer (Dr. Taylor). When these have arrived, and you are in a position to advance, you can push on a party of 100 Hausa Constabulary, with one officer and Dr. Taylor, across the Prah, and commence to clear bush, erect shelter huts, and stores, and prepare camping grounds between Prahsu and the Moinsey Hills. The places selected in 1873 were Attobiassi, about eight miles from the river, Essiaman and Accrofoomu, but new villages may have sprung up since then. Do not go beyond Akwanserim or Owuramasi at present.

As many Adansis as possible should be encouraged to cross with you, and they can be employed as carriers, and to make huts. Scouts (Adansi hunters) should be sent out in all directions, and guards placed over working parties.

Digitized with financial assistance from
Shri Brihad Bhartiya Samaj
on 31 October, 2019

I do not think that any hostile action is likely to be taken by the Kumasis so far away from their headquarters, but you will act as if you were in an enemy's country, and take every precaution.

The gun detachment is to be left at Prahsu.

The Adansis must be required to clear the road from village to village. Streams should be bridged and swamps corduroyed.

Captain Stewart suggests the following places for camps, about four hours' march apart: Attobiassi, Essaiman, Foomoosu, and Akwanserim.

WILLIAM MAXWELL.

No. 149.

GOVERNOR MAXWELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received December 27, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

ANSAH arrived this morning. Admitted to an interview with me at once. Delivered credentials. In reply to question, admitted that document not signed by King; prepared at Cape Coast Castle; mark of King made by Kwaku Foku, King's linguist, who held pen while he, Ansah, made cross. Seal British manufacture—London; admitted that impression added on arrival there. I absolutely refused recognition of document as binding on King. Repeated message to Ansah; demands already explained native members of mission. Ansah will leave at once for Kumasi. Advance of the troops not delayed.